

The Seoul Survivor 2008 - 2009



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American Forces' Spouses' Club

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This publication was originally conceived and compiled by Judy Bridenbaugh as an attempt to ease the frustration experienced when moving to a new location, especially, a foreign country. Input for yearly issues has been gathered from the best available sources at the time of publication. If you note incorrect or outdated information, please contact the American Forces' Spouses' Club. The future editor will deeply appreciate any updates. afscseoul survivor@yahoo.com

**On the cover: Hyunsuk Erickson in the Chosun Gift Shop,
Yongsan, Korea.
Cover by Jamie Holovich**

Editor's Note

Ahn-nyong ha-say-yo! Welcome to the “Land of the Morning Calm” where you will find beautiful landscapes, friendly people, wonderful shopping, delicious food, and an adventure around every corner. It is such an honor to bring you the Twenty-Second edition of the Seoul Survivor. I hope it provides you with the knowledge and understanding that enables you to appreciate and love the country we call home, Korea.

Throughout these pages you will find a wealth of information on how to prepare for your PCS to Korea, what to do upon arrival, places to shop, restaurants to enjoy, community services available, travel opportunities and much more. If you come across anything that needs updating as you use this book, it is my sincere hope that you email us so we have the most updated and accurate information for our future readers. afsc-seoulsurvivor@yahoo.com

So many people have spent numerous hours making this book happen. A big thank you to the Seoul Survivor Committee. You have made this project such a joy. You're my “Wonderful Women” indeed! Thank you to our proof readers, my eyes appreciate you. Thank you to the Oriental Press, without whom none of this would be possible. And last but not least, thanks to those of you who took the time to fill out your suggestion form or email me with those wonderful bits of information that maintain the quality of our publication.

Cathi Ferri – 2008-2009 Editor

Checklist

What to do within the first 30 days of your arrival

While you are in the Dragon Hill Lodge (DHL) or other temporary quarters, effectively manage your time to maximize community exploration, and in-processing tasks while minimizing walking for you and your children. Be prepared with copies of orders, a Power of Attorney, letters of employment, shot records, identification cards, school records and your passport(s). Bring them with you wherever you go for the first two weeks. Be flexible with your schedule. Be curious with the culture and Korean people you meet. Understand it is also helpful to call before you go anywhere to verify information and to check hours of operation. Always remember to plan in some “down-time” or relaxation activities for your entire family.

- Visit **Army Community Service (ACS)**. They are located in the Community Service Building (S4106) on South Post of USAG-Yongsan behind the Dragon Hill Lodge (next to Popeye’s Chicken). ACS has so much to offer a newcomer to the community. Be sure to pick up your welcome packet full of maps, schedules, and Korean tourism information. Sign up for a Korean class or the Introduction to Seoul transportation. Get the schedule for play groups so you and your child can start making friends.

- **A3 Visa/SOFA Stamp** – Stop by Army Community Service and sign up on the service log and get the packet of information. ACS will email your appointment date and time. Take your passport, ID card, copy of identification card (front and back), copy of sponsor’s ID card, verification letter, and a copy of orders to building S4106 to receive the Korean Immigration Stamp. Call 738-7505 for more information. ACS only offers service on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month during the fall, winter and spring; but the service is every Tuesday during the summer months. **Active Duty Family Members, Civilians Employees and their Family Members must have an A3 Visa and SOFA Stamp within 30 days of arrival in country. If you cannot make the ACS co-ordinated service, let ACS show you other locations in Seoul to get it done.**

- Participate in **Yongsan Readiness Center Headstart** – The sponsor

must attend this five-day class welcoming you to South Korea and informing you of all regulations governing your tour. YRC will assist you with the DBIDS enrollment and receipt of a Ration Control Card. **Participation is mandatory for the sponsor and all adult Family Members in order to receive the family's ration control card. Family Members are required to attend the Thursday and Friday classes which begin at 8 a.m.** (Bldg S4034, call DSN 725-6067). This will be done the first week in country and childcare is provided free of charge at the YRC day care facility.

- Obtain a **Ration Card** at the Law and Order office in USAG-Yongsan Support Activity Building 4305 (need copy of passport(s) for all family members, copy of all ID cards front and back including the service member's orders) Note: Entry to the PX, Commissary and Chosun Gift Shop require a ration card. During the first two weeks in country, please carry orders with family members names printed on them for access to above mentioned purchase points. **Civilian Employees and all Family Members must have identification cards and ration cards to make purchases.** ID card: Directorate of Emergency Services, USAG-Yongsan SPHA 738-4361, Bldg S4305. For information, call DSN 738-4361/4603, Bldg S4305.

- Enroll in D.B.I.D.S. (Defense Biometric Identification System). The sponsor must be in the system before Family Members can be enrolled. You must have your identification card with you. You need to be in D.B.I.D.S. before you can register your vehicle or receive your ration control card. **All Family Members must be enrolled in DBIDS.** (Located: YRC ID Card Section, Bldg S4034)

- **Housing and Furniture-** active duty service members must complete a five-day Yongsan Readiness Center Headstart program before making a registration appointment at the Housing Division. Command sponsored family members can come to Housing representing the military member within 48 hours of arrival. Family members must have a Power of Attorney. Bldg S4106-Rm 115, call DSN 738-4069.

- Stop by **Transportation** - (Incoming Household Goods) Bldg S4106, Room 120, call DSN 738-4818. Check on the estimated arrival date of your

Hold Baggage, Household Goods and vehicle. Make sure and give them a local contact number so that they may notify you as items arrive.

■ **Driver's License** You will need a stateside driver's license, orders, and identification card. You will need to study USFK PAM 385-2, "Guide to Safe Driving in Korea" before taking the test. Bldg S4106, Room 235, call DSN 738-5568/3235. Note: Monday - Thursday 8:00-10:30 a.m. for testing only.

■ **Vehicle Registration** - Camp Kim Building 1230. Registering your vehicle can be a lengthy and complicated process. Call for detailed instructions before you begin. You must have a Power of Attorney if you're not the Military Member, and you must be registered in D.B.I.D.S. to do this without your sponsor. Registration and permanent plates require a fee. You must have insurance for coverage in Korea prior to picking your vehicle up and you must have either a USFK driver's license or, if within 30 days of arrival, a valid US driver's license. Understand that your car will have only a small amount of gasoline, so plan on a trip to the gas station.

■ **NEO (Noncombatant Evacuation Operation) Briefing and Packet.** Go through sponsor's unit. Active duty family members, civilian employees and all family members must have a NEO packet and be ready for an evacuation.

■ Stop by **Child and Youth Services Central Registration** to register children up for activities - South Post Bldg. 4211 (near the movie theater) 738-5036/3001. Sign up for classes, activities, Summer Camp programs, the Middle School/Teen center, youth sports, and SAS Before/After School Care. You must bring proof of immunizations (and PPD), orders, and an updated physical. You might even be able to get your children into a program immediately thus enabling you to focus on other newcomer tasks.

■ **TRICARE and the 121st Combat Support** - South Post 7005. For information call: 737-3155. Visit by the TRICARE Office (outside the ER entrance) to switch your enrollment area, drop off medical records in the hospital, refill any pharmaceuticals, and even establish your first appointment for school physicals, immunization, PPDs, etc.

■ Drop off Dental Records at the Dental Clinic for Active Duty Personnel South Post 5107, call 736-4779. The **Dental Clinic** for adult family members is near the hospital and is called Dental Clinic #2. The Dental Clinic for youth family members is behind the Elementary School Cafeteria and is called Dental Clinic #3.

■ **School Registration** – South Post 4106 on the ground floor, call DSN 738-7707. Pre-register online (<http://www.korea.pac.dodea.edu>) and print the forms before you arrive in the office. If you have every form filled out beforehand, registration will be a snap. Don't forget shot records and at three emergency contact numbers. All forms are turned into this office except transferred school records. These go directly to the school your child will be attending. If you are going to live off-post, it is helpful if you ask School Transportation (they share the office) what the bus routes are to help you plan where to live.

■ Drop off your pet records at the **Vet Clinic** – South Post 4728, call DSN 738-4261. Make sure you register any pets you might have and get them micro-chipped!

Once Housing is Established

■ **Telephone** - Korea Telecom (KT) outside Gate 19 (off post), call- 797-0825; Samsung Rental and Telecommunication (SSRT) Call- DSN : 723-7030/7023; COMMERCIAL : 02-6355-5000, 02-3785-2783, EMAIL services@i-mnet.com. When checking on telephones, look into cell phone plans, internet plans and Voice Over IP plans. Some companies have discounted combo plans available. For personnel living on South Post, Main Post or Hannam Village, you must first establish line connectivity by visiting the 41st Signal upstairs in Bldg S4106, call DSN 724-7072.

■ **Cable Hook-Up** MWR cable is located in South Post Bldg. 4106 / Rm. 236, call 738-4310. Personnel living in government quarters should call DSN 738-4310. For personnel living off-post, many of the rental agreements include SKY satellite cable access. Military channels are not available through SKY, but there are many English-Asia stations available including Disney, Australian networks, and HBO Family.

■ Go back to the **School Transportation Office** to apply for school bus transportation pickup during the school year. This is only available for children living off post. ALL ON POST CHILDREN WALK TO SCHOOL.

Quick References

Emergency Numbers:

On Post (Yongsan/Hannam Village)

Police	110 (Commercial – 02-724-6695)
Fire	117 (Commercial – 02-738-0117)
Ambulance	116 (Commercial – 02-737-6132)
Emergency Housing Repair	
- South Post	DSN 724-3360
- Hannam Village	DSN 794-4448
AAFES Taxi	DSN 736-5113/4/5 (Commercial – 02-7916-5113/4/5)
AAFES Towing	DSN 736-5116 (Commercial – 02-7916-5116)

Off Post (Seoul Area)

Korean National Police (Central Interpretation Center)	02-313-0842
Seoul Metropolitan Police for Foreign Affairs	02-738-9997
Fire and Emergency (Ambulance)	119
Seoul Help Center for Foreigners	02-731-6800
Cell phone Tourism Assistance	1330
BBB Volunteer Service for Translation (press 1 for English)	02-1588-5644

Note: All Yongsan organizational telephone numbers and hours of operation are available online at <http://yongsan.korea.army.mil>.

Helpful Websites

■ www.afsckorea.org : American Forces' Spouses' Club. Contains Seoul Survivor and updated monthly calendars.

■ <http://yongsan.korea.army.mil>: USAG-Yongsan provides services for Yongsan Garrison, Hannam Village and K-16 Air Base. This site offers invaluable general information on the living environment at Yongsan and in Seoul. The site features an online calendar of community events, telephone book, Welcome Guide, daily weather and stories about Yongsan activities.

■ www.usfk.mil : This is the homepage for the USFK. The site provides links to numerous military websites throughout Korea and the world, as well as other online information sources and publications. This website is wonderful and really gives you up to date information about life in Area II Yongsan. This site also includes a phone book.

■ www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil: This is a military social service website and has information on all military installations worldwide. This program replaces the SITES program that was in existence for over 10 years. The installation section will give you integrated maps, web addresses and email addresses. This site provides a 90 day calendar with pertinent information. And it can print a 30-60 page info booklet on your new installation. Look up USAG Yongsan.

■ www.visitseoul.net/english_new/index.htm : This website is provided by the Seoul Metropolitan Government. They provide a great publication for newcomers called Seoul's Best 100 (100 best things to do in the city.) Check it out and see where you can pick up a copy. You will see their HI Seoul signs all over the city.

- <http://english.seoul.go.kr>: Lost in Seoul? This is the website for Seoul Help Center for Foreigners. This center was opened by the city government to provide support to foreigners living in Seoul. This is the official website of the City of Seoul. It offers information on what is happening in and around Seoul. Click on the English text version in the upper right hand corner.

- www.seoulmetro.go.kr: Are you a country “bumpkin” moving to the big city? Check out this website that teaches foreigners how to ride the mass transit system. It has an interactive sight for trip planning.

- <http://english.tour2korea.com>: Korean Tourism Organization. This site has everything you need to know about the what, where, and how of Korea.

Links for Military Spouses and Families:

- www.armyfamilyteambuilding.org: AFTB Family Member Training Online.

- www.militaryonesource.com: AFTB official site.
- www.myarmylifetoo.com: Army Family Members.
- www.armyfrg.org: Army Family Readiness Groups.
- www.talesmag.com/resources/military.shtml: National Military Family Association.
- www.npa.go.kr/eng/index.jsp: Korean National Police Agency has helpful information on local affairs.
- <http://cpol.army.mil>: Are you looking for employment? Check the listings for Korea.

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Chosun Gift Shop

THE AMERICAN FORCES' SPOUSES' CLUB & THE CHOSUN GIFT SHOP

"One Organization, One Mission"

The American Forces' Spouses' Club (AFSC) is a combined community spouses' organization that operates in Yongsan, Korea. It is open to active duty, retired, enlisted, officers, qualified civilians, and their spouses.

The mission of the AFSC is two-fold:

First, it is to enhance the lives of the spouses stationed here at Yongsan, as well as across the peninsula in the Republic of Korea

(ROK). We do this by offering monthly luncheons. In addition to enjoying delicious food, we provide quality programs and incorporate shopping experiences with local Korean and American vendors. All of these offerings afford the opportunity to develop some wonderful friendships. We also offer many activities for our members: hiking and running clubs, a book club, and a cooking club to name just a few. Each year the AFSC also sponsors the Tour of Homes, USO (United Service Organization) Six Star Salute, which honors enlisted soldiers for their excellent service in maintaining the alliance between the U.S. and the ROK, and the Graduates Farewell, which honors our graduating seniors from all over the area. Finally, the AFSC writes and publishes the Seoul Survivor. This book is an invaluable resource that gives you a comprehensive introduction to life in Seoul, Korea. To find out more about what the AFSC has to offer, check out our website: www.afsckorea.org or get on our mailing list to receive our monthly newsletter the “Chosun Chatter”.

Secondly, our mission is to enhance the area in which we live through charitable giving to our local Korean and American communities. The main fundraising arm of the AFSC is the Chosun Gift Shop. Owned and operated by AFSC volunteers, the Chosun Gift Shop offers goods from the Far East including China, Hong Kong, Japan, The Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The profits from the AFSC's Chosun Gift Shop are split equally between American and Korean projects and then distributed to worthy causes. The organizations that receive our funds are the direct beneficiaries of the hard work of the volunteers and staff at the Chosun and the AFSC. If you would like to volunteer at the Chosun Gift Shop, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 738-5058.

The Chosun Gift Shop is located in building 4223 on South Post, (near the theater). Hours of operations are Wednesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A military ID card and ration control card are needed for

entry. Only children with ID cards are allowed in the store. All children under the age of 10 may be carried by an adult throughout the store. Baby carriages, back packs, packages and beverages must be checked at the door before entry. Children may not be left unsupervised in the foyer area. For updates on what's going on at the Chosun, please visit our website at www.afsckorea.org.

In addition to Korean and American Projects, the AFSC also awards educational scholarships each year to our members who have graduating seniors, college students, or who are wishing to pursue their own educational dreams in both undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

As you can see there are many opportunities and ways that you can get involved by volunteering your time with The American Forces' Spouses' Club and the Chosun Gift Shop. You will meet many people along the way and form life-long friendships, but most importantly, you will be making a difference in the lives of so many Korean and American people in our communities.

"Thank you" to all of our members for your love and dedication over the years to make this club such a success!

HISTORY OF THE CHOSUN GIFT SHOP

Early in 1966, a group of ambitious military spouses started work on their dream, a gift shop here in Korea, to bring local Korean handicrafts and gift items from other places in the Orient to the American community stationed in Korea. Mrs. L.W. Schlanser, wife of the Chief of Staff, Eighth US Army, spearheaded the drive. The ladies researched their project as to transportation, customs, location and official regulations.

In March 1966, Mrs. James Simmerman, President of the OWC, submitted a formal application to General Schlanser who approved the project in principle. Official recommendations were to start a "Charity Bazaar" for six months from July until Christmas on a trial basis. Some Okinawan glassware and \$500 served as the initial investment. Handicrafts from the Paraplegic Village and the Vocational School for Girls, Young Chin, were added to serve a dual purpose to introduce Korean handicrafts to the American shoppers and to help these institutions with the extra income.

The project was an instant success. On Saturday, September 16, 1967, the Chosun Gift Shop held its grand opening in building 3599, a Quonset hut across from the high school. In addition to operating the shop in Seoul and its branch in Taegu, the ladies loaded their merchandise into trucks and periodically visited remote sites to enable the soldiers stationed there to do their shopping. The Taegu shop (The Apple Tree) is now independent of the CGS and is run by the spouses' club on Camp Walker. Today, as in the beginning, the Chosun Gift Shop operates with the approval of Yongsan Garrison command. The Board of Directors must meet the guidelines of the Gift Shop, Army Regulations and policies pertaining to private organizations. The

Chosun pays its own way including utilities, all transportation of merchandise from other countries and the delivery of goods from ports in Korea.

On April 10, 1997, the Chosun Gift Shop burned with tremendous loss of inventory. With the help of many benefactors and innumerable volunteer hours, the Chosun Gift Shop reopened in a temporary location several weeks later. During this initial reopening, a salvage operation and inventory was conducted. The Chosun was again relocated to another temporary location and finally opened its doors to a newly built permanent location on May 26, 1998. The store was rebuilt with donations and its own money. The building was then given as a gift to the Army. The new store sits at the site of the burned store.

Fourteen paid staff members and hundreds of volunteers, all of whom are AFSC members, operate the Chosun Gift Shop. The shop currently stocks items from Japan, China, Thailand, Hong Kong, Vietnam and the Philippines. The Chosun has many departments in the store to include: rugs, furniture, jewelry, linens, novelties, clothing, dishes and pottery. The Chosun Gift Shop no longer stocks Korean made items, but you can still find excellent deals on the local economy.

Funds raised by the Chosun Gift Shop go to the AFSC. They are then distributed to the American and Korean Welfare Project Committees and then to American and Korean charities throughout the country. Thanks for your continued support of this great organization, and we hope to see you at the Chosun!



Eighth United States Army

HISTORY OF U.S. FORCES AT YONGSAN

In 1910, after five years of occupation, the Japanese Empire annexed Korea and immediately began a major building program to consolidate its political and military control over the country. It established the headquarters for the Imperial Japanese Army in Korea at Yongsan (Dragon Mountain) shortly after annexation. The Japanese compound included the areas known today as Yongsan Main and South Posts, Camp Coiner, Hannam Village, the Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministry of National Defense, and the ROK War Museum. During its occupation from 1905-1945, the Japanese garrisoned the post with an infantry division headquarters, at least two infantry regiments, and a cavalry unit. In addition, they located the colonial administrative and governmental headquarters on South Post.

When World War II ended in 1945, the US government sent Lt. Gen. Hodge's XXIV Corps to Korea to accept the surrender of Japanese forces south of the 38th Parallel. Meanwhile, Soviet forces moved into the area north of the parallel. In September 1945, the US 7th Infantry Division established its headquarters at Yongsan. It helped provide administration, order, and security of the southern zone, pending establishment of a single government for the entire peninsula; however, a unified Korea proved impossible as the Soviets sealed the border at the 38th Parallel and created a communist North Korean state.

All US forces, with the exception of the Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG), departed Korea in mid-1949. At the request of the ROK government, the US military formed the KMAG at Yongsan to develop and train ROK security forces. These security forces were first organized into police constabularies and later became the foundation of the ROK Army.

The North Korean invasion that began on 25 June 1950 turned Korea into a battlefield. Seoul changed hands four times between the communist and the United Nations forces. The opposing armies inflicted substantial damage on the city and garrison. In 1952, US forces reestablished headquarters at Yongsan and began restoring the post. The Eighth US Army moved its headquarters from Seoul National University (present day Seoul National University Medical School) to Yongsan on 15 September 1953.

On 1 July 1957, the United Nations Command (UNC) headquarters moved from Tokyo to Seoul in conjunction with an overall reorganization of US military forces and command structures in the Pacific.

The US Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the ROK Minister of National Defense created the Combined Forces Command (CFC) in 1977. This two-nation command, headed by a US four-star general, who also serves as the Commander United Nations Command, USFK, and the senior US Army officer in

Korea, will serve as the war fighting headquarters in the event of any future hostilities between the two Koreas.

As the state of “No war, No peace,” embodied in the Armistice Agreement of 1953, stretched through the ensuing years, the garrison at Yongsan expanded its support facilities. Over the years the post went through three major building phases. From 1952 to 1955, the US Army constructed many Quonset huts on Camp Coiner and other parts of the post for soldier billeting and offices. Through the 1960s to about 1972, the Army started replacing the Quonset huts with multi-story, concrete & steel barracks, concrete mess halls, and gymnasiums to improve the soldier living conditions. The third period of construction started about 1977 and went on into the 1990s. Construction included: new troop facilities, family units, schools, the White House (Bldg. 2310), and the Dragon Hill Lodge. Slowly, Yongsan changed from rows of olive drab Quonset huts to a modern installation.

Today, Yongsan garrison consists of 630 acres and has about 2,500 military personnel assigned to its headquarters and support agencies. The major tenant organizations on Yongsan are the UNC/CFC/USFK Headquarters, 8th US Army Headquarters, U.S. Navy Forces Korea, U.S. Marine Forces Korea, 8th Military Police Brigade Headquarters, 1st Signal Brigade Headquarters, and the Joint US Military Advisory Group - Korea (JUSMAG-K). Approximately 1,000 U.S. and 6,000 Korean civilian employees augment the US military. In addition, more than 1,000 Korean Augmentation to the U. S. Army (KATUSA) Soldiers serve on base. Some 3,500 military and civilian employee Family Members reside on South Post, and in a contract housing area east of South Post called Hannam Village, or on the local economy in neighborhoods adjacent to the compound.

Information in this section was provided by the USFK Command History Office. For more information, please contact the Heritage Center located on South Post (Bldg. 4260) 723-5213. They have an



Hyangwonjeong Photo by Brett Turner

KOREA!!

Most Americans have little or no knowledge of Korea's history and culture. Much of what they do know may be an erroneous impression garnered from the news media or old newsreel footage from the Korean War. In reality, the Republic of Korea is a vibrant, vital country of more than 48 million people, all striving to keep up in this fast-paced, modern society. They have become world travelers, world-class economic competitors, and highly regarded participants in world affairs. Underpinning all their vast economic and commercial accomplishments over the last twenty years, lies the Korean people's spiritual wealth, their traditional respect for elders, their strong belief in community, their love of nature, and their sense of national pride.

Many newcomers find South Korea to be an exotic place. Keeping an open mind and being willing to experience and appreciate cultural differences will make your tour of duty here one of the most memorable of your military career. Soon after you arrive, you will realize the Korean people are very friendly. They will exert themselves to the utmost to understand you. Many Koreans, especially in Seoul, speak English. At times, though, communication can be a frustrating task. The key is to exercise patience, speak slowly, and express gratitude. Your reward will be their readiness to cooperate and to support you.

Korea's history is an amazing mixture of events and trends. Against the backdrop of strong cultural uniformity that started to emerge in the seventh century and has continued up to the present day, we find a pattern of rich contrasts. Buddhist pagodas stand side by side with Confucian shrines. Cycles of great commercial growth are set against downturns of financial decay. Numerous foreign invasions are countered by attempts at territorial expansion. Aristocratic rulers enjoyed luxurious and extravagant lifestyles with funds gained from poverty stricken peasants. Within the Korean government, periods of factional strife and political coups contrast with long periods of stability. Learning about Korea's past helps put the present into true perspective. On a busy day in Seoul, the capital city of 23 million people, we guarantee you'll notice the following:

□ **The industriousness of the people** - The official work and school week is Monday through noon Saturday. The second and fourth Saturdays are not official work days.

□ **The air pollution in Seoul** - In 1991, the United Nations Environmental Committee declared Seoul to be the third most air-polluted city in the world.

□ **Traffic** - Everyone tries to “get there first.” The traffic in many parts of Korea is legendary and rivals the worst that New York, Paris, London, or Washington D.C. has to offer. Rather than a methodical, legalized culture of driving, Korea’s driving habits have been described as currents in a vast river all flowing in the same general direction.

□ **A myriad of smells** - Visitors quickly come to believe garlic must be the national food staple. It is used extensively in Korean dishes. Two very popular dishes are bulgogi (barbecued marinated beef), and kimch’i (a fermented vegetable dish with as many variations as there are Korean cooks.) Once you acquire a taste for it, eating Korean-style can be inexpensive and delicious.

□ **The clothing** - Koreans are more formal in their dress than most Westerners, and they take great pains with their appearance. As the culture becomes even more westernized, the number of Koreans who still wear a traditional Korean dress called “hanbok” (graceful, full-length garment in several pieces) is declining.

□ **The Korean alphabet, Hangul** - Learning to read this phonetic alphabet, invented by King Sejong and a group of scholars in 1443, is often the greatest challenge faced by foreigners who want to become well acquainted with Korea. The 1988 Olympics in Seoul encouraged the Koreans to print most major road and street signs in both Hangul and English.

□ **The jostling crowds** - Space is precious in Seoul. Koreans are accustomed to tight crowds, and they assume everyone else is too. Therefore, pushing and shoving is normal and not to be taken personally.

□ **The markets** - Nowhere in the world, Hong Kong included, are

there markets and shopping areas to rival those of Seoul. Itaewon, located just outside the U.S. Army Garrison at Yongsan, is probably the most famous of the Korean shopping areas. The true Korean markets, however, are not as western in style as Itaewon. In the traditional markets like Dongdaemun (Eastgate) and Namdaemun (Southgate), products are grouped according to type - rows and rows of leather jacket vendors in one place, miles of fabric in another, and thousands of electronic gadgets in another. The range is truly amazing!

As with any other prospective assignment, do visit with others who have been stationed here before you come. Stay open-minded and form your own opinions. While you are here, take every opportunity to leave Yongsan and explore this beautiful, mountainous country. Strike up conversations with the Korean people you meet. Taste the food. Enjoy the cultural arts. It will be an experience you will never forget.

FACTS ABOUT SOUTH KOREA

- **History**-Korea is said to have been founded about 4,300 years ago. Its recorded history dates back to 300 B.C. The Republic of Korea (South Korea) was established in 1948.
- **Language** - The Korean written language is referred to as Hangeul; the spoken language is simply called Korean (Hangeul-mal).
- **Geography** - Korea is a peninsula thrusting from the northeast Asian mainland in a southerly direction for about 620 miles/1,000 kilometers. The peninsula, contiguous to the two continental powers of China and Russia to the north and nearby oceanic Japan to the south, functioned for a long time as a land bridge through which continental culture was transmitted to Japan. Its peninsula location has both the advantage of easy access to adjacent cultures and the disadvantage of becoming the target of aggressive neighbors. South Korea shares a

land boundary with North Korea of about 150 miles/238 kilometers.

□ **Topography** - Approximately 70 percent of South Korea's land area is comprised of mountains and uplands. Mount Halla (6,396 feet/1,950 meters) on Jeju Island is the tallest mountain. The longest rivers are the Nakdong River, the Kum River, and the Han River, which flows through Seoul.

□ **Area** - 8,452 square miles/ 99,237 sq. km (about the size of Indiana)

□ **Climate** - Long, cold winters and short, hot, humid summers with late monsoon rains and flooding. Seoul's January mean temperature is 22 degrees F. to 35 degrees F. In July it is 73 degrees F. to 78 degrees F. The annual rainfall varies from year to year but usually averages more than 39 inches/100 centimeters. Of that total, two-thirds of the precipitation falls between June and September.

□ **President** – Lee, Myung-Bak

□ **Capital City** - Seoul (Est. population of 23 million)

□ **Monetary Unit** - Won

□ **Population** - 48,846,823 (July 2006 est.)

□ **Largest Cities** - Seoul, Busan, Daegu, and Incheon

□ **Religions** - no affiliation 46%, Christian 26%, Buddhist 26%, Confucianist 1%

□ **Literacy Rate** - Over 98% (one of the highest in the world)

□ **Industry** - South Korea's workforce is 20 million strong. Fifty-two percent of the labor is in services and 27% is in mining and manufacturing. Exports: include agricultural products, electronics, machinery, textiles, steel and metal products, and chemicals. Major products are clothing, textiles, processed foods, chemicals, and electronics.

□ **Natural Resources** - Iron, copper ore, tungsten, and graphite

□ **National Bird** - Magpie

□ **National Flower** - Rose of Sharon

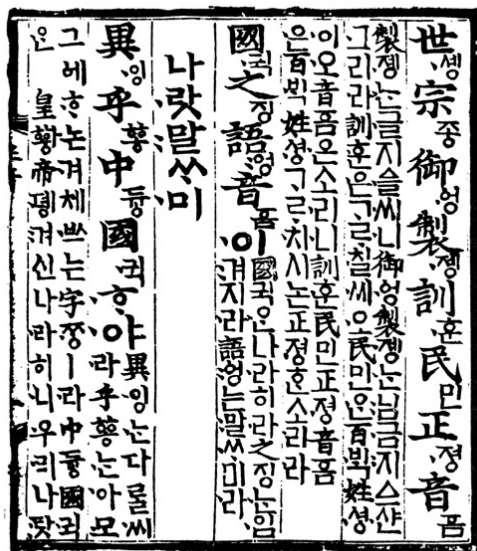
KOREAN NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

- **January 1 (New Year's Day)** - The first day of the New Year is celebrated. Family members rise early and put on their best clothes. The younger members bow to their parents and grandparents as a reaffirmation of family ties.
- **Lunar New Year (Korean New Year's Day)** - celebrated on the first day of the first month by the lunar calendar. It is celebrated in a similar way to January 1, but on a grander scale. Families perform ceremonies to commemorate their ancestors. Various traditional games are played. There is much singing and traditional food is served.
- **March 1 (Independence Movement Day)** - Koreans observe the anniversary of the March 1, 1919 independence movement against the Japanese Occupation.
- **Buddha's Birthday** - Celebrated on the eighth day of the fourth month of the lunar calendar. Solemn rituals are performed at Buddhist temples, and the day's festivities are climaxed by a "lotus lantern" parade.
- **May 1 (Labor Day)** - This is not a government holiday, but some banks and businesses may be closed.
- **May 5 (Children's Day)** - This day is celebrated with various programs for children who spend the day enjoying themselves with their parents.
- **June 6 (Memorial Day)** - On this day, the nation pays tribute to its war dead. Memorial services are held at the National Cemetery in Seoul.
- **August 15 (Liberation Day)** - On this day in 1945, Korea was liberated from Japan after 36 years of colonial rule. It also marks the 1948 establishment of the government of the Republic of Korea.
- **Harvest Full Moon (Korean Thanksgiving Day/Chusok)** - celebrated on the fifteenth day of the eighth month by the lunar calendar

(September/October). This is Korea's most important national holiday. People visit family tombs and present food offerings to their ancestors. The tradition of Chusok dates back to an annual weaving competition that was started during the Shilla Dynasty. The losing team would prepare a feast for the winners, and all would share the food. Most Koreans will return to their hometowns during this holiday, so traffic is unusually heavy and travel times double.

- October 3 (National Foundation Day) - This day marks the traditional founding of Korea by Tan'gun in 2333 B.C.

- December 25 (Christmas Day) - Christians and other citizens celebrate this holy day as in the West.



Korean Language

THE KOREAN SPOKEN AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE

The Korean language has evolved throughout the centuries. No one knows how long it has been spoken and, despite the geographical closeness of China and Japan, Korean is unlike Chinese and Japanese.

Chinese characters were used to write Korean until the 15th century. However, since they were hard to learn and were very different from the Korean spoken language, most people remained illiterate. In 1446, after many years of study and testing by the ruler, King Sejong and his scholars introduced a unique Korean alphabet. It was devised on a purely phonetic basis and consisted of 28 letters. These were arranged in syllable units or blocks and not into linear words. This meant the

syllables could be written horizontally or vertically on a page. Hangul, the modern alphabet, has evolved from this original alphabet. It has 24 characters and follows the Western convention of writing from left to right. Chinese characters are rarely used today in conjunction with the Korean alphabet, especially in newspapers; it is possible to communicate fluently without using them.

During your tour in Korea, you will find ample opportunity to study the Korean language. Many bases have on-duty and off-duty language classes that are offered without charge. Formal classes are also offered on post. The post libraries offer many language-learning books, audio and video cassettes for circulation. The AAFES Main Post Exchange carries similar products as well as useful phrase books and Korean language computer programs.

Prior to 1998, English was taught in Korean schools beginning in the 7th grade with an emphasis on grammar instead of speaking. Now Korean students begin learning English in the 1st grade. When you talk to Koreans in English, speak slowly to increase your chances of being understood.

USEFUL KOREAN PHRASES

The following Korean phrases may assist you during your tour in Korea. They are simple conversational words and phrases designed for newcomers. Koreans will be impressed you have made the effort to learn even a little of their language. The key is not being afraid to try.

GREETINGS:

Good morning	Ahn-nyong ha-say-yo
Good afternoon	Ahn-nyong ha-say-yo
Good evening	Ahn-nyong ha-say-yo
Hello (on the telephone)	Yo-bo-say-yo

May I have Your name?
I'm glad to meet you.
Good-bye. (by Host)

Ee-ru-mee moo ot shim mo-yeh-yo?
Mahn-nah-suh bahn-gah-wuh-yo
Ahn-nyong-hee kah-say-yo.

SHOPPING:

How much does it cost?
Do you have _____?
Show me another one.
It is expensive.
Can you reduce the price?
I'll take this.
It's too big.
It's too little.

Ol-mah yeh-yo?
_____it-suh yo?
Darun-gut johm bo-yuh-ju-say-yo.
Bee-sah-yo.
Chom sah-keh-heh ju-say-yo.
Egut ju-say-yo.
Noh-moo kuh-yo.
Jjug-uh-yo.

AT THE RESTAURANT

It is very delicious.
It is hot (spicy).
I would like a glass of cold water.
I would like a bottle of beer.
Please give me _____.
☐ an English menu
☐ the bill

Ah-ju mah-sheet-so-yo.
Mae-wo-yo.
Mool ju-say-yo
Mack-ju hahn-byong ju say yo.
_____ju-say-yo.
Yong-oh menu
Keh-sahn-suh

CONVERSATION

Do you speak English?
Where is _____?
☐ the police station
☐ the restroom
Yes
No
Thank you
You are welcome
I am sorry.
Come here.
Please help me.
Call a policeman (an M.P.)

Young-oh hahm-nee-ka?
_____o-dee itsum nee-ka?
Kyong-chal-suh
Hwa-Jahng-shil
Yeh (or Nay)
Ah-ni-yo
Kam-sah ham-nee-dah
Chon-manh-neh-yo
Mee-ahn hahm-nee-dah
Ee-ree o-say-yo
Jom, dough-wah ju-say-yo
Kyung-chal (huhn-byung) bul-luh ju-say-yo

for me please.

Call this number for me,
please?

Ee bon-ho-ro jon-hwa jom, heh-ju-say-yo

TAKING A CAB

Please take me to the nearest

U.S. military installation.

Stop here.

What is this place called?

How much is the fare?

Please take me to _____

- ☐ Itaewon shopping area
- ☐ South Gate Market
- ☐ East Gate Market
- ☐ Jamsil Stadium

Kah-kah-woon mee-goong boo-dae-ka ju
say yo.

Yo-gee se-wo ju-say-yo

Yo-gee-gah-aw-deem-nee-ka?

Ol-mah eem-nee-ka?

_____ kab-she-dah

Itaewon she-jahng

Nam-dae-moon she-jahng

Dong-dae-mun she-jahng

Jamshil undong-jahng

WHEN TRAVELING

Give me one ticket to _____.

Western-style room

Toilet

Parking lot

Reservation

_____ hahn-jahng ju-say-yo.

Cheem-dae bahng

Hwa-jahng-shill

Ju-cha-jahng

Yay-yahk

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Monday Wol-yo-il

Tuesday Hwa-yo-il

Wednesday Soo-yo-il

Thursday Mok-yo-il

Friday Kum-yo-il

Saturday To-yo-il

Sunday Il-yo-il

THE MONTHS OF THE YEAR

January	Il-wahl	July	Cheel-wahl
February	Ee-wahl	August	Pahl-wahl
March	Sahm-wahl	September	Guu-wahl
April	Sah-wahl	October	She-wahl
Ma	Oh-wahl	November	Shib-il-wahl
June	Yu-wahl	December	Shib-ee-wahl

THE SEASONS

Spring	Bome
Summer	Yuh-rume
Fall	Kah-ul
Winter	Kyuh-uhl

KOREAN NUMBERS

Chinese numbers are often used when counting sequentially. This includes money, telephone numbers, dates, mileage, etc. When shopping, listen for the Chinese numbers, particularly for the endings which mean hundred, thousand and ten thousand. Notice that Korean numbers go as far as 99. Beyond 100, Chinese numbers are used. When counting people, use Korean numbers.

Sometimes in the smaller restaurants the prices will be written in the Chinese figures, usually from top to bottom. The following chart offers a brief glimpse of some of the differences in the two systems:

CHINESE

1	il
2	ee
3	sahm
4	sah
5	oh
6	ruk
7	chil
8	pahl
9	goo
10	ship
20	ee-ship
30	sahm-ship
40	sah-ship
50	o-ship
60	rook-ship
70	chil-ship
80	pahl-ship
90	koo-ship
100	baek
200	ee-baek
300	sahm-baek
1,000	chon
2,000	ee-chon
10,000	mahn
100,000	ship-mahn
1,000,000	baek-mahn

KOREAN

hah-na
dool
set
net
tah-sot
yo-sot
eel-gop
yo-dol
ah-o-pe
yol
sue-mool
so-run
ma-hun
She'en
yeh-soon
ee-run
yo-dun
ah-hun
baek
ee-baek
sahm-baek
chon
ee-chon
mahn
ship-mahn
baek-mahn

KOREAN CULTURE AND CUSTOMS

South Korea's population shares a common ethnic and cultural heritage. Intense feelings of nationalism, so evident in athletic events like the 1988 Olympic Games held in Seoul and the World Cup soccer games in 2002, reveal a sense of pride concerning South Korea's place in the world. More than Western people, South Korean individuals tend to view themselves as a tightly knit national community with a common destiny. This chapter contains sections on Korean personality traits, factors that have contributed to making them the way they are and discussions of important traditions, cultural attitudes, and etiquette. Your awareness of these factors will greatly reward you as you meet and interact with new Korean friends.

The Seoul Survivor Committee is grateful to Mr. Young K. Chang, instructor at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey, California, from whose publication, *Cultural Orientation (Korean)*, much of this chapter is extracted.

KOREAN NON-VERBAL BEHAVIOR AND ETIQUETTE

Customs and attitudes are different in Asia from those of Western countries. Korea has its own set of courtesies. If you take the time to learn and observe them, the rewards are significant.

The traditional bow has given way to the handshake, but friendly back-slaps or arm squeezing are considered rude here.

Koreans meeting for the first time introduce themselves only at the invitation of a third party. The formal ritual of introduction is similar to this: The person who knows everyone in the group invites his friends to introduce themselves. One says, "I am seeing you for the first time." The other repeats the same sentence, and the elder one suggests that they introduce themselves. The introductions and formal bows are

followed by an exchange of calling/business cards. These cards are very important in Korea. They give an opportunity for each person to discover the other's position without rudely inquiring about them. Cards also do away with the need of asking someone's name twice. When someone presents you with a business card, take a moment to read it before putting it away as a sign of respect.

The proper use of names in Korea is also important. A person's name is considered his or her personal property. Koreans regard their name with reverence. The persistent wave of Westernization has accustomed Koreans to being addressed by their family name, but only intimate friends and family greet each other on a first-name basis. Koreans prefer titles rather than names. For example, you would call the company president "Sa-jang-nim" or someone with a Ph.D. "Bak-sa." Teacher or "Sun-saeng-nim" is an acceptable title for anyone. Try to remember that no matter how "Western" many Koreans may appear on the surface, their thinking is still governed by traditions, which are based on a culture several thousands of years old. The following list covers some important traditions relating to etiquette:

- Avoid eye contact - Looking into an acquaintance's eyes was generally considered not polite. This is not necessarily true today.
- Use the right hand when performing tasks such as presenting gifts, paying a bill, or pouring a drink - using the left hand is considered impolite.
- Do not point the index finger toward a person or gesture with your foot - It is considered insulting.
- Do not write someone's name in red ink, i.e., endorse checks, letters, etc. (name written in red means death).
- If invited to dine at someone's home, bring a gift. When presenting the gift, use your right hand. Place your left hand on your right forearm near your elbow.

- Take your shoes off when entering a Korean house or restaurant with low tables.
- Do not start eating before your guest of honor or senior.
- Do not say, “I don’t drink” when offered unwanted alcoholic beverages. It is more polite to say, “I’m not feeling very well today”, “I am a designated driver”, or “I’m on medication”.
- Karaoke is very big in Korea. Sing one of your favorite songs when asked.
- Do not eat or drink without offering your food or beverage to your colleagues. Do not pour your own drink – pour for someone and let him reciprocate.
- Try to wear conservative clothes.
- Ask your Korean guest more than once to help himself to more food and drink.
- See your guest off at the gate, and stay there until your guest is gone.
- “Yes” is often used simply to acknowledge what is said by one’s counterpart; it does not necessarily mean one is in agreement or understanding.
- Do not go Dutch. Just remember when it is your turn to pay.
- You may often see two male friends or two female friends walking affectionately arm-in-arm. This is in no way an indication of their sexual preference.
- Remember the Koreans will want to touch and hold your children when you are out together (especially blondes and redheads). Koreans love children and in this culture, children are treated as “everyone’s treasure” to cherish and protect. If your children are uncomfortable with this, then remove yourselves from the situation as politely as possible. A simple “No, thank you” usually suffices.

TRADITIONAL KOREAN MEALS

Either plain or cooked with other grain, rice is the main dish at most Korean meals. Rice is accompanied by a variety of side dishes. Favorite side dishes include bean paste soup, roasted beef and fish, as well as steamed and seasoned vegetables. Soy sauce, soybean paste, red pepper paste, ginger root, sesame oil and sesame seeds are some seasonings which are essential to Korean food.

Famed as a Korean treat is Kimch'i, a highly seasoned pickled cabbage or turnip served at most every meal. Koreans favor beef dishes, with Bulgogi being one of the most popular. It is known as "Korean barbecue" and consists of thin slice of beef marinated and then cooked on a grill over hot charcoal. The marinating sauce is made of soy sauce, sesame seed oil, garlic and other seasonings. Cooked in the same manner, but using short ribs instead of beef slices, is another well known dish called Kalbi.

The traditional Korean homemaker believes that much of her family's happiness depends on her culinary expertise. She often begins her day by preparing a substantial breakfast of hearty soup, meat or fish, steamed rice and kimch'i. A light lunch follows which is similar to the breakfast fare. A generous evening meal is favored, consisting of up to 15 or 20 dishes for special occasions. Food is usually eaten with a pair of chopsticks and a large spoon.

Holiday celebrations are an important part of family life in Korea. All celebrations, no matter how large, center on the home. Women can spend hours preparing the traditional dishes; sometimes a family's reputation depends on the amount and quality of the food.

At an elegant Korean dinner, the first course might be Gu-jol-p'an (nine

compartments dish). It is somewhat similar to a French hors d'oeuvre tray. The cooked meat and vegetables are arranged on a large platter with a mound of pancakes in the center.

Homemakers in Korea, like many others in advanced nations, usually have little time to prepare these traditional foods and are well acquainted with frozen fare, microwave lunches, and other high tech cooking conveniences. Fast food restaurants, Chinese takeout/delivery (speedily brought on the back of a motor scooter with a heated box strapped to the back) and food stalls for the passerby are very popular for the busy Korean housewife.

The visitor to Korea will find native food offered in small restaurants, in the large hotels, and in gourmet sections of the large department stores, such as Lotte or Shinsegae. "TRY IT, you'll enjoy it!"

The following is an alphabetical list of traditional foods and beverages that are served in many Korean restaurants:

□ **Bap** – Rice.

□ **Bibimbap** – (mixed rice) This Chonju specialty is a bowl of vegetables, rice, and chili paste; topped with a soft fried egg.

□ **Bulgogi** - Thin strips of beef, marinated in sesame oil, soy sauce, sugar, and garlic, then grilled at your table.

□ **Bin-de-ddok** - Vegetables, pork and spices cooked in batter; a North Korean pancake.

□ **Bokkumbap** – Korean fried rice

□ **Boricha (barley water)** - In lieu of tea, cups of this tepid drink are brought to the table as soon as you are seated in a Korean restaurant.

□ **Bul Kalbi** - Literally roasted short ribs. Cooked the same way as Bulgogi.

□ **Cha** - Tea.

- **Chaksol Cha (Solluk Cha)** – Different kinds of Nock-cha, Korean green tea.
- **Chapchae** – clear noodles, generally mixed with vegetables and soy based dressing. May be served hot or cold; see recipe section.
- **Cider** - A local bottled soft drink, similar to 7-Up. Chilsung Cider is a popular brand, served in a green glass bottle.
- **Dakagalbi** - Broiled spicy chicken and vegetables.
- **Ddok** – Rice cake.
- **Ddokguk** – Rice cake soup traditionally served on the Lunar New Year.
- **Dooboo** - Bean curd called tofu by the Japanese and dofu by the Chinese, it is the compressed white liquid squeezed from cooked soy beans.
- **Dolsot bibimbap** - Steamed rice mixed vegetable and egg (sometimes beef) with chili paste in a hot stone pot
- **Ghim** - Paper-thin sheets of salted laver seaweed.
- **Ghimbap** - This popular food consists of sticky rice rolled with assorted vegetables, egg, and meats into a sheet of seaweed, and sliced into bite-sized pieces. It's known as Korean Fast Food or the Korean MRE.
- **Goon Mandu** - Fried Mandu. A perfect hors d'oeuvre when served with a soy sauce. Yaki Mandu is the Japanese term.
- **In Sam** - Ginseng. A root long prized for its medicinal properties, it is also used in cooking. **Paeksam** is white ginseng; Hongsam is red ginseng.
- **In Sam Cha** - Ginseng tea.
- **Kalbi** – Pork or beef short ribs. (**Kalbi Jhip** - A Kalbi restaurant.)
- **Kalbi Tang** - Kalbi soup, the least expensive way to eat Kalbi.
- **Kimch'i** - Cabbage, radishes or other vegetables pickled with garlic, chili pepper and ginger, then fermented in huge jars buried in the ground. NO Korean meal is complete without it!
- **Kimch'i jjigae** – Kimch'i stew

- **Ku-jol-pan** (“Nine treasures”) - Strips of egg and vegetables are served in a compartmented dish with thin crepes in which you wrap the other eight treasures.
- **Mandu** - The Korean equivalent of Chinese won ton, made of minced pork or beef and vegetables wrapped in thin pastry crescents, steamed and served with soy sauce.
- **Makkolli** - Rice wine, the drink traditional to farmers.
- **Maek-ju** - Beer.
- **Moo** - The large white Japanese daikon radish used in summer kimch'i.
- **Mool** – Water.
- **Myon** - Noodles, sometimes thin and white if made from flour. Other myon are made with buckwheat, potatoes, or mung beans.
- **Nang Myon** - Cold noodles that are 70% buckwheat and served in a dish of cold water to which you may add a dollop of chili paste. This is considered a perfect complement at the end of a bulgogi meal.
- **Sake** - Called chonjongg in Korea, this is traditional Japanese rice wine served in tiny cups.
- **Sam-kye tang** - Ginseng chicken soup. A summer specialty, the chicken is boiled with a piece of the medicinal root.
- **Sesame** - An herb frequently used in Korean cooking. Kae is Korean sesame. The leaves are added to soup, the seeds to vegetables and meat marinades, and the oil for flavoring in cooking.
- **Seolleongtang** – Beef soup served with rice.
- **Shinselo** - A casserole once served only to royalty. Fried eggs, fish, meat, and vegetables are cut into strips and simmered in broth in the distinctive charcoal brazier.
- **Soju** – distilled beverage native to Korea and traditionally made from rice.
- **Songpyon** – Chusok half-moon shaped rice cakes.
- **Soy Sauce** - Made by fermenting the liquid of boiled soy beans, this is one of the most popular condiments in a Korean kitchen.

□ **Sukiyaki** - Japanese dish cooked at your table. Meat and vegetables are simmered in a sauce of shoyu, saki, and sugar. Dip each piece into beaten raw egg.

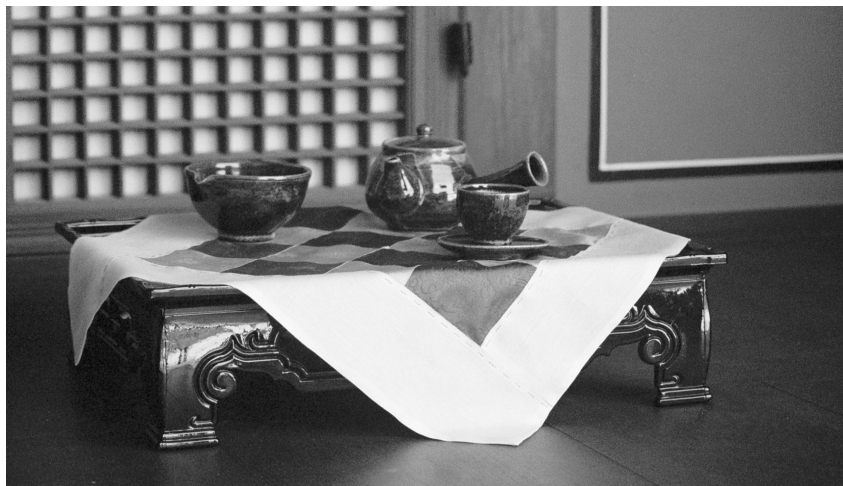
□ **Sushi** - Slices of raw fish dabbed with wasabi and curled over a clump of sticky rice.

□ **Uja Cha** – Citron tea, usually served in winter.

□ **Yakchu** – Can mean any kind of clear liquor, a respectable word for liquor.

You might like to prepare some of the traditional Korean hot and spicy or cool and crunchy dishes. Some basic recipes can be found in this section, which are easily prepared in your kitchen. Remember though, if you get frustrated in your attempt to cook these dishes, just go to the commissary or a local grocery store and you will find jars of Kimch'i and bags of ready-to-cook Mandu reasonably priced!

For additional recipes, try the AAFES Book Mark cookbook section. There are many good Korean cookbooks on the market. Also, the Main Library has some cookbooks you might want to check out.



Tea Set-Photo by Melinda Graper

TRADITIONAL KOREAN RECIPES

MANDU



- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1 tsp. MSG | 8 minced green onions |
| 1 TBSP. dry white wine | 2 cups finely chopped cabbage |
| 1 TBSP. soy sauce | 1 cup bean sprouts |
| 2 10 oz. pkgs. gyoza skins
(wonton wrappers) | 1/2 cup bean curd |
| egg white | 3 large minced garlic cloves |
| 1 tsp. sesame oil | 1 TBSP. toasted sesame seeds |
| water | 1 tsp. ground black pepper |
| | vegetable oil |

Squeeze all liquid from bean curd. Combine the first 12 ingredients. Put 1 teaspoon of mixture in the center of a gyoza skin. Fold, forming a half circle. Seal the edges with egg white and crimp the edges. Pan fry or steam them. Serve at once with dipping sauce (below).

DIPPING SAUCE

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 3/4 cups soy sauce | 1 TBSP rice vinegar |
| 1/4 cup water | 1 TBSP. sugar |
| 1 chopped garlic clove | 1 tsp. sesame oil |
| 1/2 tsp. dried hot chili flakes | |

Combine all ingredients. Allow flavors to blend for 30 minutes

QUICK WINTER KIMCH'I



This spicy cabbage pickle can be eaten after a few hours of chilling. You can substitute cayenne powder for the ground pepper (Kochu) and red hot chili flakes for the thread peppers (shile kochu) although the appearance will not be the same. After ten days the flavor begins to sour.

- 2 lbs Chinese cabbage
- 3-4 inches daikon radish, shredded, with radish liquid
- 1 TBSP. toasted sesame seeds
- 2-4 TBSP. kochu (ground pepper)
- 1 tsp. minced ginger root
- 1/2 cups sea salt water
- 3 green onions, slivered
- 1 shredded carrot
- 2 minced garlic cloves
- 2 tsp. shile kochu (thread pepper) or to taste

Cut cabbage lengthwise into 2 or 3 strips. Put strips into a large bowl. Sprinkle with salt, working it between the cabbage layers. Add water just to cover cabbage. Soak several hours or overnight. Drain cabbage; rinse in cool water. Drain well. Add the remaining ingredients. Rub the mixture over the cabbage and between the layers. Fold cabbage into bundles and store in an air-tight container. Cut bundles into slices. Refrigerate leftovers for up to 10 days.

CUCUMBER KIMCH'I

10 small Korean cucumbers
3 cloves garlic
3 green onions
1 tsp. vinegar
1/4 cup salt and some to taste

1 large carrot
1 medium onion
red pepper spice
1 TBSP. sugar

Sprinkle 1/4 cup salt on cucumbers and let sit 3-4 hours, turning every so often. Remove the cucumbers. Wash and cut them into bite size portions. Shred the carrot. Chop green onions and medium regular onion. Mix all together in a large bowl. Crush garlic cloves and add to mixture. Add 1 - 2 tablespoons of red pepper, 1 tablespoon sugar and 1 teaspoon vinegar. Then add the salt to taste. Stir the mixture and you are ready to eat.



BEEF BULGOGI

2 lbs thinly sliced beef rib eye,
about 1/8 inch thick

Marinade:

5 TBSP soy sauce

3 TBSP sugar

4 green onions, finely shredded

2 TBSP sake or dry white wine

1 TBSP sesame oil

3 large garlic cloves, minced

dash ground black pepper

2 TBSP toasted sesame seeds



Mix all ingredients except sesame seed oil. Add to sliced meat and marinate for 30 minutes to 1 hour. Add the sesame oil just before grilling. Barbecue the meat slices over a charcoal grill or a portable table top grill. Turn only once (thin slices cook quickly). A WOK can be used if a grill is not available.

SPICY CHICKEN BULGOGI

4 half chicken breasts, skinned and boned

2 green onions, slivered

2 TBSP soy sauce

1 garlic clove, minced

2 TBSP dry white wine

1 TBSP toasted sesame seeds

1 TBSP Koehn Jang (ground red pepper)

2 TBSP sugar



Flatten the chicken breasts slightly with a meat pounder or a heavy rolling pin. Slice into thin strips on the diagonal. In a medium bowl, combine the remaining ingredients. Add the chicken and mix well. Cook on barbecue grill for 34 minutes. Do not overcook. Serve with hot steamed rice and kimch'i.

PLANNING YOUR PCS WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT

Now that you know why the Armed Forces are here and where you are going, South Korea...LET'S GET PACKING!!! Because of the ever-changing circumstances in the military, you may not be able to count on a sponsor to provide you with all the necessary information about your upcoming change of station to Korea. (Although if you have a copy of this book PRIOR to your move, someone is obviously thinking of you and your family!) It is, nevertheless, important that your advance planning be as comprehensive as possible in order to avoid undue stress upon arrival.

Take a trip to your Army Community Service (ACS), Air Force Family Service Center, or Navy and Marine Family Service Center to check their relocation files. If you and your family belong to a service branch other than the Army, remember to tell the person helping you that Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, South Korea is an Army installation. In addition, be sure to look in your local bookstore or library and on the Internet for assistance. A bibliography and a list of Internet sites are provided at the end of this publication, and this entire book is available on the Internet at www.afsckorea.org. Just click on "Seoul Survivor".

If you have not heard from a sponsor as your move draws near, definitely take the initiative and contact your gaining unit, either by letter or telephone, for a relocation packet. A sponsor should be assigned automatically, but sometimes this is unintentionally overlooked. Korea is an assignment where a sponsor is necessary and a relocating family's biggest asset. Your sponsor can get your mailing address, start the paperwork for temporary ration cards, check availability of quarters and get floor plans from Housing for you to see before you come.

Internet sites for learning more about relocation, as well as the bases and surrounding communities in Korea:

□ **U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Korea Region:**

<http://imcom.korea.army.mil/>— This web site is a great location for community information, and includes links to the weekly Morning Calm newspaper and monthly Community Connection magazine. Many of your questions about life on Korea can be answered here.

□ **U.S. Army Garrison-Yongsan** – The community web site is at <http://yongsan.korea.army.mil> and includes a calendar of community events, news stories about the Garrison, podcasts, a Yongsan telephone book and a Welcome Guide. The Garrison web site is update almost daily with news, alerts and weather.

□ **8th U.S. Army Web site:** 8tharmy.korea.army.mil – This is the 8th U.S. Army, Korea web site, which contains the electronic version of their Welcome Guide Steady magazine, as well as links to military information and the AFN-Korea website.

□ **KOHOM Housing Management Office:** www.kohomm.org - This is the website for on post housing in Korea. There is local information here, as well as a link to the Army One Stop Housing website where you can see floor plans and get other information about housing.

□ **Oconus.com Korea site:** www.oconus.com/main/korea.asp - Includes many specific links to different bases in Korea.

□ **Ameriforce Relocation Guides:** www.ameriforce.net/relocation/ Includes an 8-week PCS checklist for moving to Korea, as well as many tips on family travel to Korea

□ **Air Force Crossroads:** <http://afcrossroads.com> - Includes searchable database on installations, PCS, family and pet travel tips

□ **Standard Installation Topic Exchange Service (SITES):** <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites/owa/ShowPage?p=index> - Worldwide relocation information on major military installations (need to provide sponsors SSN, last name, and birth date for access)

□ **DOD Military Relocation Assistance Program:** <http://www.de->

fenselink.mil/mapsite/relocate.html - Helpful tips on relocation

□ **MyArmyLifetoo.com:** www.myarmylifetoo.com - General relocation information for families

□ **DOD “It’s Your Move”:** <http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/itsyour-move/> -

PCS articles and “It’s Your Move” pamphlet

□ **U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan:** www.area2.korea.army.mil

□ **DODEA:** www.korea.pac.dodea.edu/

For more information on tourist web sites, please look at the sites listed in the back of the book.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS

As we all know, moving involves many details, and a successful move requires careful planning. The following is a checklist to assist you with your move to Korea:

Address Book - Remember to bring this in your carry-on luggage, and do not forget to include all the information that you normally get from the Yellow Pages (doctors, schools, etc.). You may want to pack a phonebook from your last duty station in your shipment just in case.

Power of Attorney - It is wise for all military members to have a current Power of Attorney. Remote assignments, deployments, and NEO requirements make a Power of Attorney an absolute necessity in Korea. Whether your family will be coming with you to Korea or remaining in the United States, it is a good idea to have a Power of Attorney prepared before leaving your current duty station. If you are leaving a vehicle in the States, it's a good idea to provide a special POA to the person keeping the vehicle for selling or dealing with your insurance provider. USAA, for example, has specific requirements for leaving your vehicle with someone. Take care of these issues early.

Automobile - There are several options available to service members and their families, but regulations vary. See the sections WHAT TO BRING and AUTOMOBILES. If your vehicle is financed, you will need permission from the lender to ship your vehicle overseas (contact your lender for specifics). If you are leaving a vehicle in the States, provide a special POA to the person keeping the vehicle for selling or dealing with your insurance provider. Contact your provider to find out their requirements and take care of these issues early.

Computers and Electronics – Check with the manufacturer of your computer or other electronic devices to ensure that you will be able

to get parts and service (Dell, for example, does not ship to APO, AP addresses).

Driver's License - Make sure that your driver's license is current and will remain current for your entire tour in Korea (and a few months beyond). Most Departments of Motor Vehicles will allow you to renew your license at any time, so it is wise to do this before you leave the States. Within the first thirty days of your arrival, you will need to obtain a United States Forces Korea (USFK) license to drive on post or anywhere in Korea. You can drive on post with your stateside license for the first 30 days after arrival, but get your USFK license as soon as possible. Should you find yourself in Korea with an expired US license, contact your state DMV. They will usually make an exception for a military member to renew by mail. Finally, if you plan on extensive travel in Asia (Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc.,) we strongly suggest you visit your local AAA office to obtain an international driver's license. International licenses are available in Korea, but the bureaucracy for getting one is tremendous. Regulations for teenagers may be different from your current duty station/state, so ask your sponsor for more information.

Employment Records - Family members wishing to work in Korea may need proof of previous employment, such as official personnel records, letters of recommendation, pay stubs, etc. Also, bring copies of any diplomas and transcripts. Some employers and colleges require an official, sealed transcript, so be sure to include the contact information for your prior education in your address book.

Eye Exam - If you wear contact lenses, particularly the soft or extended wear type, have your exam and purchase contacts before leaving the States. The Optometry Clinic gives contact lens exams only for medical problems and existing prescriptions that may need changes,

so you should have your initial exam and prescription done in the States. You can purchase lenses on the Korean economy, but if possible bring a supply of lenses with you. If you already order contacts online, be sure that your provider will ship to an APO address. Due to the pollution, many long-time contact lens wearers find that they are unable to consistently wear their lenses here. Prescription eyeglasses are available at The Gallery Optical Shop, the Dragon Hill Optical Shop, and in Seoul, so bring a current prescription. Try to use an optical shop that has been recommended by a friend.

Hair Care Products- It is highly recommended that if you have hair care products that you love...BRING A SUPPLY with you. It is very hard to find these items, especially salon brands, the PX does carry some hair care products. Many on-line stores will not ship hair and make-up product to an APO.

Housing - Contact your sponsor or gaining unit to learn what housing is available and when you can expect quarters. Have your sponsor or gaining unit make reservations for you at an appropriate facility, preferably the Dragon Hill Lodge (located on Yongsan). If you do not have a sponsor, you can make your own reservations by contacting The Dragon Hill Lodge from CONUS: 011-822-7918-2222, FAX: 011-82-2-7901576 or at their website: <https://www.dragonhilllodge.com/>. Pets are not permitted in the Dragon Hill Lodge(See Pet Care Center).

Identification card - Your military identification card is your lifeline. You will need this to get on post and gain access to most facilities. If your identification card will expire during your stay in Korea, consider getting it renewed before your move. If your identification card expires in Korea, you will have to do a lot of extra paperwork after renewing it here (See THE FIRST 30 DAYS).

Immunizations - The requirements on this can vary, so it is important that you contact your stateside medical facility for current information. Do this immediately, because several of the immunizations may require a series of shots given over the course of a few weeks or months. Most important is to get PPD testing done for every member of your family before coming to Korea, as this is necessary for school and youth activities enrollment, and must be updated yearly. For more information on immunizations recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/eastasia.htm>. Also refer to IMMUNIZATIONS in Practical Information from A to Z section of this book. Refer to page 146 for more information.

Insurance - Adequate automobile and personal effects coverage is essential. Check with your insurance company, and make sure your renter's and auto policies cover living abroad. Insurance is also available in Korea through USAA, GEICO and CIGNA. Also, see INSURANCE.

Legal Documents - Make sure all necessary documents are up-to-date and copies are either left in a safety deposit box or given to a trusted friend, relative, or attorney. HAND CARRY original documents such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, wills, etc. on the plane. One of the first things you will need to do after arrival is create a Noncombatant Evacuation (NEO) packet, and these documents will be needed.

Mail - Have your sponsor or gaining unit assign a mailing address, so you can fill out change of address forms before you PCS. Most people stationed at Yongsan are required to receive personal mail at their workplace. The positive effect of this policy is that you will be able to obtain your permanent mailing address in Korea before leaving the

States since your address is not based upon your housing unit. Mail is not delivered to offices on weekends or holidays (US and Korean). There are some post office boxes available for eligible personnel.

Medical Records - You and all of your family members will be required to obtain a medical clearance (EFMP screening) prior to approval of command sponsorship. Make sure your medical records are up-to-date and include International Certificates of Vaccination. Korean Immigration can be strict on this so make sure they are accessible as you go through Customs and Immigration. Take care of annual exams and get extra refills for needed medications before you leave the States. Take the initiative where medical issues are concerned, and be prepared to go off post for some care.

Money - If you are coming to Korea from a major city with banks or private companies that deal in foreign currency, it may be possible for you to buy some Won at an advantageous rate. Check with your sponsor or gaining unit to see what the current exchange rate in Korea is and then compare that to the exchange rates available stateside. A note of caution: Be aware of any fees or commissions that could cancel out any advantage of the quoted rate. Dollars are widely accepted in Korea, so you should not be concerned if you do not have any local currency upon arrival. Do not (unless, of course, you have to) exchange money at the airport...the rates are poor. Website for more information on exchange rates, and a calculator: <http://www.x-rates.com>.

Mosquitoes – These pests are a huge problem in Korea and they are active from mid-spring well into the winter months. There are some options available on the economy to minimize mosquito problems, but it is highly recommended that you bring any products that have worked for you in the past.

Orders - Always have multiple copies of your orders (with amendments and pinpoint orders) and any separate orders for family members available for in-processing both at Korean Immigration and on-post. Make at least 20 extra copies so you will not be caught short-handed.

Passport/Visa - This is clearly a vital item. Although an active duty military member can generally travel with his or her military ID card accompanied by military orders or leave paperwork, this is not always the case in Asia (China, for example, requires a passport with visa for entry). Since family members are required to have a passport with a proper Korean A-3 visa (Individual), family passports are NOT recommended. Contact your local personnel office for the proper forms and information. The government will provide a no-fee passport with an A-3 visa (which allows for multiple entries into Korea) to command-sponsored family members. The processing time is generally 6-8 weeks.

Pets - Many people choose to bring their pets to Korea. Be aware, however, that pets are not allowed in the Hannam Village or Burke Towers housing complexes. There are NO exceptions to this policy. Korean apartments generally do not provide areas for walking pets. Check with the Housing Division to find out about the availability of housing and whether pets can be accommodated. Be sure and check with your airline about the cut-off dates on heat restrictions when shipping your pet. There are VERY specific rules and regulations on the importation of your pet. For more information see PETS, or contact the 129th MED DET (VM) Unit at 738-5145/4261 or from U.S. 011-822-7918-5145/4261. For boarding and/or grooming call the Pet Care Center 736-6426.

School Records - Make sure that copies of all school records are up-to-date and HAND CARRIED. School records (diplomas and/or transcripts) are required to take college-level courses at the university campuses on base.

Telephone Calling Cards - There are several options for long distance service from Korea to the States. Some can be expensive while others are quite reasonable. The most widely used system involves pre-paid phone cards sold by PX concessionaires. Many of these cards offer excellent rates (8 cents per minute to the States and sometimes lower). There are also services available that allow credit card holders to make calls from Korea. The company simply bills your credit card each month and eliminates mailing you a statement of charges. AT&T, MCI, and Sprint also have credit cards that may be used and billed to you on a monthly basis. Whichever system you select, you should be aware that Korean phone service will charge about 15 cents per minute for general service. Prepaid cards for cell phones (local and international calling) offer a good rate as well and are available at the Dragon Hill Lodge and PX concessionaires.

Unaccompanied Tour – If you decide to join your sponsor on an unaccompanied tour, there are some things you will need to consider. School-aged children are waitlisted for the DoDDS schools, and are not guaranteed a space from year to year (many of these families choose to home school). Non-command sponsored family members pay for their own transportation to Korea, as well as passports and A-3 visas, and will have to live on the economy. However, non-command sponsored family members (Identification card holders registered in DEERS) are eligible for medical and dental services (TRICARE Standard only – contact your local TRICARE office for details on co-payments and other costs), a ration card, and all on-post services. There is no additional weight allowance, ration allowance, or housing allowance for non-command sponsored families.

WHAT TO BRING

As with any PCS move, one of the biggest issues is what to move and when to move it. One word of advice - UNDERPACK your household goods if possible. There are so many things to buy, both on the local economy, when traveling, and at the Chosun Gift Shop that nearly everyone goes home with more weight than they originally brought.

This must be balanced, however, with the fact that there are some things that simply are not available (at least not at a reasonable price) in Korea. Therefore, prudent packing can be the key to a successful PCS.

You may have to “live out of your luggage” for four to eight weeks or make purchases at the PX or on the economy. Before you leave the states, find out which of your favorite stores will ship to an APO address and ship those catalogs. On a positive note, clothing on the economy, particularly at the large markets, is relatively inexpensive and plentiful, Be aware, sizes are only available for men and women of small build.

PLAN YOUR PACKING IN FIVE COMPONENTS

1. **HAND CARRY** - Pack passports, copies of orders, medical, school, and immunization records, pet documents, personal toilet articles, any essential medicine, and all identification cards. You may want to pack something to occupy yourself and your children and food to snack on during what may possibly be the longest flight of your life (11 to 12 hours nonstop from the West Coast). **Due to increased airport security, please check with your airline or visit www.usfk.mil or travel.state.gov/travel/**

2. **BAGGAGE FOR THE PLANE** - What you include will be limited by the baggage weight limits, but the following are some suggested “essentials”: current seasonal clothes and several pairs of comfortable shoes (You will do a lot of walking). Remember you can get the overseas baggage weight allowance with your PCS orders. Seasonal “must haves” include: raingear (umbrella and rain boots) during the summer months (monsoon season is no joke) and warm layers during the winter. Bring car seats (check booster seats) and if you use an umbrella stroller, check one as baggage. Check with your airline for specifics about overseas weight allowances.

3. **UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE** - Although this cargo plane shipment might be slightly delayed, it may still be the only shipment you receive for months if you have to live in a hotel or temporary housing until your permanent housing becomes available. Even if you move into permanent housing right away, your household goods may not arrive for a few months. Plan your hold baggage carefully. While the Army Community Service (ACS) can help you with some items until your shipment arrives, consider sending the following items:

- ☐ Kitchen & eating necessities (plates, utensils, pots, pans)
- ☐ Small appliances (can opener, toaster, coffee maker)
- ☐ Household cleaning supplies (broom, vacuum, mop)
- ☐ Shower curtain liners and hooks
- ☐ Towels (bath and kitchen)
- ☐ Bed linens, including blankets and pillows
- ☐ Clothing to span two seasons (rain gear for the summer monsoon season)
- ☐ At least one evening dress/suit, for various social functions
- ☐ Baby and children’s items, particularly games and toys
- ☐ Computer equipment
- ☐ TV/radio/CD or cassette player

- ❑ Small hand tools (hammer, screwdriver)
- ❑ Lightweight decorations

4. HOUSEHOLD GOODS vs. STORAGE - The government allows only a certain percentage of your total weight allowance to be shipped to Korea. The remainder of your items will need to be placed in storage at government expense. Weight allowances vary depending on branch of service and rank, so check with your Personnel Office, Travel Management Office, or Personal Property Office for the correct information. Your household goods shipment may take several months, so you may want to consider sending this shipment early. Inventory this shipment VERY carefully. If you are sending special items, take color photos prior to packing and hand carry those photos to help settle any claims.

Regardless of your weight allowance, think carefully when deciding what to ship. Bring the things that you cannot live without, but keep in mind that your life may become filled with “treasures” from Asia. Do not bring things “just in case” you might need them. Quarters are small with minimal storage space and you can quickly find yourself very crowded.

Consider bringing the following items:

- ❑ Bathroom shelving units, especially for Hannam Village (you can check with Housing to see if necessary)
- ❑ Room air cleaners and filters. Plan on bringing enough filters (or find a website that ships what you need to an APO) for your entire stay in Korea. (EXTREMELY necessary for those with breathing conditions and small children)
- ❑ Small tools - saw, impact-hammer drill (important as walls are concrete in most housing), mortar bits, etc. If you are sure you will be in Government housing, these tools are available at the Self-Help Center on Yongsan but at times are difficult to reserve.

- Sports equipment (golf clubs, tennis equipment, ski gear, and sports shoes for your children in the next size up)
- Sewing machine (have your machine serviced before you come and bring all essential accessories)
- If you bring a gas grill, be aware that you cannot ship your own tank (even purged). You can get propane tanks at the PX Mini-Mall. See GAS GRILLS AND PROPANE.
- Rugs and carpets - Floors in quarters are linoleum over concrete, and they are cold. Beautiful but expensive Oriental rugs are imported and available at the Chosun Gift Shop. Area rugs are available at the AAFES Furniture Store at reasonable prices though selection is sometimes limited. You may wish to bring carpets (and/or carpet padding) with you. See CARPETS.
- Christmas and other holiday decorations are a must to bring. You may want to downsize the quantity due to size of your new living space. Most of the Christmas decorations are available at the PX/Four Seasons and in the economy, but expensive. Fresh Christmas trees have been sold through the Boy Scouts Organization. The prices are comparable to the U.S. or slightly higher.
- Craft supplies - Bring a sufficient quantity of regularly used items. Especially water-based craft paint which is very difficult to find.
- Pictures, books, and decorative items that transform a house into a home. Be sure to include plenty of these because they are real morale boosters. You may want to consider leaving irreplaceable treasures in storage so pollutants will not damage them.
- Some type of entertainment center for your TV. (Check with Housing to see if one will be provided, it depends on where you live.)
- A futon, air mattress, or some type of sleeping arrangements for visitors you may have. Housing provides only enough mattresses and bed furniture for each family member. ***A note about bedding: The mattresses are hard, and the largest bed available is queen size. If you prefer a soft mattress or a king-sized bed, bring your own mat-

tress, box spring, and frame. If you bring twin-sized mattresses for your children, do not bring the box springs, as it is not needed on the bed frames Housing provides. A feather bed or other mattress topper in queen size is a good alternative to shipping your own bed.

- ☐ Planter boxes or pots - The self-help store has flowers, seeds, dirt, rocks, border materials, and mulch available free of charge in the spring, but planters have to be purchased.
- ☐ Dehumidifier/humidifier/window air conditioning units – Dehumidifiers are issued at Burt's Self-Help, but quantities are limited. If you have one, bring it. Dehumidifiers are also available on the economy and simple to identify as they have a "hippo" as a logo.
- ☐ Slipcovers for standard size living room furniture
- ☐ Stepladder (small)
- ☐ Fans – some housing areas have ceiling fans, but many do not. Pedestal fans are available at the PX seasonally.

Consider **NOT** bringing the following items:

- ☐ Large pieces of furniture, since Housing provides them (See Furniture under HOUSING):
- ☐ Irreplaceable or light-colored upholstered items because the pollution here will make them dingy:
- ☐ Large outdoor toys or playsets, because storage is an issue, and you may not have a downstairs housing unit
- ☐ China and crystal unless you routinely do formal entertaining
- ☐ Major appliances such as a stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washing machine and dryer (they are furnished by Housing)

5. **AUTOMOBILE** - (Also see "Automobile" in Practical Information Section). You must face the issue of whether or not you will need a car in Korea. For most eligible individuals, the answer is usually YES. Although there are buses (free post shuttle) and taxis on post, using them can be time consuming and expensive. Most areas of the post

are accessible by foot, but some housing areas on post can be as much as two miles from one's workplace. If you are allowed to ship a vehicle, it will be indicated on your orders. If you are authorized to register a vehicle on post, you will be allowed to register one automobile and one motorcycle/ moped per family. Since it is considered a recreational item, you are allowed to ship your motorcycle with your household goods but it will count against your weight allowance. Prior to purchasing a motorcycle locally, check with the vehicle registration office for further details. If you are not authorized to ship a vehicle, check with your gaining unit to see if you are eligible to purchase one upon arrival. Send your vehicle as early as you can from the states, you'll be glad you did. You will do a lot of walking while in-processing! There are some used cars (hoopties) for sale, usually sold by outgoing personnel. These are local Korean cars, usually several years old and reasonably priced. Most of these cars have seen better days, but they are better than sending your new car from the states. Remember that if you drive off post, the roads are very congested and the streets are narrow with small parking spaces. Expect many dings and dents on whatever car you decide to use.

The single automobile policy is in effect, regardless of whether you ship or purchase one. There are certain exceptions to policy on POV entitlements. Generally E6 and below are not authorized a vehicle. Command Sponsored military spouses may be authorized on a case-by-case basis. Several factors should go into your decision of whether to ship or purchase a vehicle:

- Inexpensive (\$500-\$3,000) used cars are normally available during PCS season.
 - It can take six weeks to two months for a shipped car to arrive.
- Should you decide to ship your car, seriously consider the options that will enable you to ship your vehicle early. Though most areas of the

post are accessible by foot, walking during the hot summer months can be exhausting, especially if you have young children. In addition, you may be required to live off post, either permanently or until your quarters are available. More information about shipping vehicles is available at www.whereismypov.com.

□ You are authorized to sell one vehicle during your command-sponsored tour. This is a tricky area, so you should seriously consider this before making any shipping decisions based on intent to sell.

□ Any vehicle must pass a safety inspection before an installation pass and tags will be issued. If your POV is coming from the U.S. and it has a crack in the windshield glass of 1" or more, be sure to replace it before shipment.

□ If you decide to ship a vehicle, then consider including a supply of air filters, spark plugs, fuses, and belts in your shipment. The Car Care Center tries to meet individual needs, but its inventory is not inclusive of every make and model. There is an Auto Skills Center on Yongsan if you enjoy doing your own repairs. For a fee they do minor repairs or they can recommend a garage off post.

□ If you wish to ship a vehicle back to the states, you must ship one to Korea.



Incheon International Airport

TRAVEL DAY

The flight to Korea from the United States is very long. If you have airline mileage points, this would be a good time to use them and upgrade your seats. Some layovers will require a rush to the next gate after processing customs.

To make yourself more comfortable on your flight, you might consider bringing:

- ☐ Ear plugs
- ☐ Eye mask
- ☐ Eye drops
- ☐ Water

- ❑ Snacks, gum, lollipops
- ❑ Skin lotion
- ❑ Books and magazines (if you travel through airports that have a USO you can take advantage of their book swap tables)
- ❑ Travel pillow (not all domestic flights offer them)
- ❑ Toiletry kit – expect the unexpected!

Note: Due to increased airport security, please check with your airline or visit: www.usfk.mil or travel.state.gov/travel/

To avoid dehydration, be sure to drink plenty of water during your flight and remember to stand up and stretch or walk around often.

If you are flying with children:

- ❑ Encourage your children to stand up periodically and stretch as well.
- ❑ Bring car seats on the plane for smaller children.
- ❑ Bring puzzles, notebooks, books, and small games for children to play (handheld electronics and portable DVD players are a sanity saver).
- ❑ To give your children something to look forward to during a long plane or car ride, prepare surprise packets that will be opened by them periodically during the journey.

TOUCHDOWN!

When you arrive in Korea at Incheon International Airport outside of Seoul, one thing is almost certain - you will be tired and wish you were anywhere else rather than dealing with Korean Customs.

DO NOT, under any circumstances, try to bring weapons or contraband into Korea. While the customs inspectors are pleasant and helpful, they are also very thorough. Contraband, such as drugs and deer antlers, will get you into trouble not only with the Koreans but also with the Military Police. Decorative swords should be shipped with your household goods. All other weapons should be left in storage.

The Incheon International Airport website is www.airport.or.kr/Eng/home.jsp.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A military liaison must pick up all Army personnel unless a sponsor has obtained the proper clearance from the 1st Replacement Company, 8th PERSCOM to transport the military member. They are located across from the Main Post Chapel (723-6452). For other branches of service a sponsor will need to pick you up or you will need to find your own transportation to Yongsan.

INCHEON INTERNATIONAL ARRIVAL

The Incheon International Airport website: www.airport.or.kr. Choose English on the upper right hand corner.

Army Liaison Pick Up – When you arrive at Incheon, you will be met by Army liaisons. They will meet you in the terminal as you exit your plane. The liaison will then take you through Customs and Immigration, baggage claim, and will transport you via military bus to Yongsan Garrison (about a one-hour drive). If you do not see the liaison in the terminal, go ahead through the entire Customs and Immigration and

baggage claim process (have your DA 31 and ID card ready). **MAKE SURE THEY STAMP YOUR PASSPORT WITH AN ENTRY STAMP. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.** You should then look for the U.S. Military Liaison Office located near exits E and F. If you don't see anyone, turn right and walk to the end where the 1st Replacement desk is located. Once you arrive on post, you will have a short briefing and will then check into your lodging.

Sponsor Pick Up - If your sponsor is meeting you, be careful not to follow the military liaisons. They are highly visible and it is easy to get caught up with the flow. Even though they are calling for all military members, you will need to go through the regular lines like any civilian passenger. Once you have completed all the Customs and Immigration formalities, and have retrieved your luggage, go through the nearest exit door to your baggage claim carousel. There are several exits out of the baggage claim area. If someone is meeting you, be sure you are at the exit door posted for your flight. If you are unsure which exit is correct, go ahead and depart any exit. You should then turn around and look at the monitors located above the exit doors. Your flight number will be posted along with an exit door letter. If you have exited the wrong way, don't worry, you will be able to easily walk to the correct exit. Once you have met your sponsor, they will most likely take you directly to your lodging. They will also be able to advise you of when and where you need to go for in-processing.

Individual Transportation - If you need to go to Yongsan on your own, go through any of the exit doors. You can take either a taxi (expensive) or the military bus (free) to Yongsan. If you wish to take the bus, look for signs to the USO desk. If the desk is open, they can tell you when the bus to Yongsan is departing. Since you will be in PCS status, you and your family members will have priority above anyone else wishing to ride the bus (aside from any others in PCS status).

Taxis are located just outside the terminal. The AAFES taxis all have English-speaking drivers and are the only ones authorized to come onto post, so it is better to take one of these. AAFES taxis (which are black with gold letters) park to the far right as you exit the airport. The AAFES Taxi Stand is in front of Exit Gate #14 (phone: 02-7913-5550). All AAFES taxis have meters and accept US dollars. If you must take a Korean taxi, be sure to have Korean won. Try to select a cab which has clearly visible identification about both the driver and vehicle. A taxi ride to post will cost you around \$50-\$60. AAFES taxi drivers appreciate and expect a tip whereas the Korean taxi drivers do not expect tips.

U.S. Army Garrison-Yongsan offers airport shuttle services throughout the day from Dragon Hill Lodge (<http://www.dragonhilllodge.com>). Please check with the concierge and obtain a copy of the schedule. The Capital Hotel, which is located right outside of Gate 52 (Commissary) on Yongsan, has a shuttle that runs every 20 minutes from 5:30a.m. - 11:30p.m. The cost is 13,000 won (approximately 14 dollars). The shuttle is located near the USO at exit door 11. The shuttle service employees are very helpful and will assist you getting onto the Capital Hotel Shuttle. The ride will take about 90 minutes with several stops along way. The shuttle is extremely western and the recorded information on the route is in English.

IN PROCESSING

All military personnel are required to in-process shortly after arriving in Korea. Locations for in-processing vary depending upon branch of service. Your military liaison or sponsor should know exactly when and where you will need to go for in-processing. However, the following information is provided for your convenience.

□ **U.S. Air Force** - Members of the Air Force will need to in-process with the Air Force Element (AFELM). Call 723-8538.

- **U.S. Army** - Army personnel will need to in-process at Yongsan Readiness Center, G1 (across the parking lot from the Dragon Hill Lodge). Call 723-6452.
- **U.S. Navy** - Naval personnel begin their time in Yongsan with the Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) on Main Post. Please call 723-4651.
- **U.S. Marine Corps** - Marines arriving in Seoul in-process with the Administrative Office on Main Post. For more information, please call 723-7032 or 723-3385.

ALL NEW ARRIVALS

Once you have checked in with your new unit and rested, there are many things you must do during your first days in Korea. These include visiting the housing office, ACS (Army Community Service), schools, and Central Registration for Child and Youth Services. Refer to the next section on **‘What Happens Next...First 30 Days in Korea’** for details.



Army Community Services Building

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT... FIRST 30 DAYS IN KOREA

Ration, Ration, Ration The most important thing you need besides a great pair of walking shoes is a **RATION CONTROL CARD**. Your Ration Control Card is just as important as your Military identification. In layman's terms it is a card that most businesses on post (AAFES, Class Six, the Commissary, and the Chosun Gift Shop etc) use to track your purchases to make sure that you are not purchasing huge quantities of any item in order to sell on the Black Market. Your Sponsor should be able to provide you with a temporary Ration Card when you arrive. However many don't and it's a rude awaking when you just want to grab a magazine or some aspirin at the Shoppette and they will not allow you to make a purchase without it. You will need to go with your sponsor to get temporary ration cards as original ID cards are required for processing the application. The Law and Order/ Ration Control Issue Point is located on South Post, at U.S. Army Garrison-Yongsan, Bldg 4305, Room # 105 (in the right back corner of the first floor), phone number 738-4612. You will need a Ration Card for each family member that carries a Military identification (children 10 and up). Don't leave home without it.

Walking Shoes You need to have a pair of comfortable walking shoes (large shoe sizes are hard to find here, so bring extras of your favorites in size 8 and up). You will do a lot of walking while in processing and getting to know the area. It usually takes a while for your vehicle to arrive and it can be difficult for many people to adjust to this way of getting around. Be prepared and you will enjoy walking much more. The Post Shuttle Bus can get you most places as well. It is best to just get on one day (there are many bus stops scattered throughout post) and make the full loop so you will know where all the stops are.

It's a great way to get to know your new post. A backpack will be useful for carrying all your paperwork, water, and an umbrella as you walk. There are AAFES taxis available on base for a reasonable rate as well.

IN-PROCESSING

Family members have a lot of things to do in the first few days after arriving in Korea. It is highly recommended that you go to the Army Community Services Building (ACS) as soon as possible. They have a fantastic staff ready to help you as a newcomer. The ACS Building is behind Popeye's and Burger King. This will be your new home away from home. BE PREPARED... carry your identification card, ration card, multiple copies of orders, a Power of Attorney, and your passport with you wherever you go for the first two weeks. It is also helpful to call before you go to verify information and to check hours of operation, this can help cut down on your frustration and save valuable time. The best thing to do is make a tentative game plan the day before and map out where you need to go each day so you can get it done quickly and have more family time! Detailed information can be found in PRACTICAL INFORMATION FROM A to Z for each of these items on the checklist.

□ **NEO (Noncombatant Evacuation Operations)** – The Service Member is responsible for obtaining the NEO briefing packet for his/her entire family within the first 30 days after arrival. The NEO drill is conducted in the fall to equip family member's specific scenarios in case of evacuation operation.

□ **Army Community Services (ACS) Building 4106 South Post** (behind Popeye's and Burger King) is where you can take care of many of the items on your checklist. ACS has a great checklist to let you know what needs to be done. Most of the places you need to go are located in this building. ACS has lots of brochures and information so be sure to go upstairs and get informed. Look for the Help Book. It is the Post Phone Book and will be a huge help in finding services on post.

□ **SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement) Stamp** - Dependents **MUST** acquire a SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement) stamp with A-3 visa on their passports within the first 90 days after arrival in Korea. SOFA is the treaty between the American and Korean government that ensures certain privileges and rights to American military members and their families in the Republic of Korea. All aspects of the American presence in Korea are dealt with under SOFA, which is continually undergoing reviews and revisions by a bi-national committee. American passports with the A-3 visa stamp require a SOFA stamp too. Family Members whose passports are not stamped with a SOFA stamp may experience detainment or fines when re-entering Korea. (Both **COMMAND SPONSORED** and **NON-COMMAND SPONSORED** family members need this stamp). Check with ACS to get the time and day for pre-registration. Personnel from the Korean Immigration Office normally offer the service at the ACS building the last Tuesday of every month or most Tuesdays during high season. You will need to stop by ACS prior to that day to pick up a SOFA packet, go over paperwork, and receive a scheduled time to return. You will need the following documents when obtaining your A-3 Visa and SOFA stamp: a copy of PCS orders, an original Letter of Verification of Assignment from the unit commander, copy of sponsor and dependent ID cards (front and back), Supplemental Visa Application Form, and passports to show proof of A-3 visa. You must bring all required documents to ACS for verification (M-F, 0800-1700). At that time you will receive a number and a time to return on the scheduled day (expect long wait times). Contact ACS for more information on the A-3 Visa and SOFA stamp, by calling DSN 738-4617/7999/7186.

□ **Driver's License** – You can take your Korean Driver's License test here but you will need to **study first**. USFK PAMPHLET 385-2, "Guide

to Safe Driving in Korea”. This document is available at the 8th Army website (<http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/> - click on the SAFETY link, choose Motor Vehicle Safety, and then scroll down to find the link), or ask your sponsor to get you a copy. You must have a USFK Driver’s License within 30 days of arrival to drive in Korea even if you only plan to drive on the installation. When taking the test, you will need to bring a stateside license, orders, and your ID card. Call 738-5568/3236/3235 for more information. Open Monday – Thursday, 8:00am-10:30am only.

□ **Housing and Furniture Office** – Must contact within 48 hours of arrival so check in with the Housing Office, located on the ground floor of the ACS building to the right of the lobby. 738-4069

□ **Cable Service** – This office is on the 2nd floor and is a pretty quick process once you have your housing location. They will give you your cable boxes and instructions. Ask for a listing of channels. 738-4310

□ **Education Center/School Registration** – If you have school-aged children, you will need to stop here to register your children for Seoul American Elementary School, Middle School, and High School. This office also has info on Bus Transportation for eligible families (Han-nam Village and off-post). When you register your child/children, the following information is required: **shot records, orders (must have dependent’s names on orders), previous school records, kindergarten and 1st graders need a copy of their birth certificate or passport.** High School Students will need to report to room 108 at the High School to sign up for classes with the guidance counselor. For more information on the schools please see SCHOOLS in the Practical Information from A to Z section of this book.

□ **Korean Language Class-** ACS has wonderful Korean Language classes. This is a great way to meet new people and get a handle on some of the culture questions you might have. Mr. Lee is one of the instructors. He has occasional Korean cooking classes intertwined with the language lessons. He also leads a tour held most Saturdays. The Saturday Tour is a wonderful way to see Seoul; a new museum, palace, or shopping area to explore with Korean college students. We can learn so much from each other this way it is a great exchange of information.

□ **Car Delivery and Vehicle Registration** – Camp Kim Building 1230, call 724-6363 Note: Receiving and registering your vehicle can be a lengthy and complicated process. Call for detailed instructions before you begin. The service member MUST register the vehicle. See AUTOMOBILES.

□ **Vehicle Registration** – Camp Kim Building 1230, call 724-6363 Note: Registering your vehicle can be a lengthy and complicated process. Call for detailed instructions before you begin. The service member MUST register the vehicle. See AUTOMOBILES.

□ **Self Help - South Post Bldg. 5274** (between Gate 17 and Collier Field house). If you will be living on post, stop by and see what they have to offer. Call 736-7818. Self help closes early on Mondays.

□ **121st Combat Support Hospital/TRICARE** – Turn in your medical records, register for TRICARE, and finish immunizations (if necessary). Call 737-5800. Please see MEDICAL.

□ **Central Registration for Child and Youth Services-** South Post Bldg. 4211 (near the movie theatre) 738-5036/3001. Sign up for classes, activities, youth sports, and SAS, After School Care. You must bring proof of immunizations (and PPD), orders, and an updated physical.

□ **Veterinary Services** – South Post Bldg. 4728 (by the Gas Station) 738-4261/5145. Register your pet and turn in records (need health

certificate). Pet must be registered within the first 10 days of arrival.

❑ **Pet Care Center** – South Post Bldg. 5256, 738-6426. Pet boarding/kennels and grooming.

❑ **Chapels** – South Post Chapel (South Post Bldg 3702, call 738-6054) or Memorial Chapel (Main Post Bldg. 1597, 725-4076) are the main places for services and activities. (See RELIGION)

❑ **Library** – Main Post Building 2215 (by the Gallery) Great resource for travel books, cookbooks, movies, music, and so much more!

❑ **Quartermaster Laundry** – This facility is one of only two in the entire Army and is a tremendous asset as it saves you money. The Quartermaster Laundry Plant provides laundry and dry cleaning services for all U.S. ID cardholders. QM pick-up point #1, Bldg: 5255 behind Burt's Self-Help Center offers three-day regular or one-day special service. All clothing is cleaned by stateside standards and cleaning compounds are procured from the States.

For more information, call 736-4397/4395. Hours: Monday-Friday 0730-1800 and Saturday 0900-1300. Note: quartermaster will sew on unit patches free of cost when you arrive on Peninsula, must show PCS orders. A 24-hour AAFES launderette is located in Bldg: 4220 near the South Post Mini-mall. AAFES also provides other dry-cleaning and laundry services on both Main and South Post and in Hannam Village.

These are the major points, but things change all the time, so try to be flexible and smile. This small community will be your home for your Korean tour and everyone is there to help you get settled. If you are feeling tired stop, rest, and recharge. You will get it all done.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

FROM A TO Z

A

ACRONYMS - The military is notorious for its acronyms, and installations in the Republic of Korea are no exception. The following list may be useful during your stay:

AAFES Army Air Force Exchange Service
ACS Army Community Service
AFAP Army Family Action Plan
AFN-Korea American Forces Network- Korea
AFRAC Army Family Readiness Advisory Council
AFSC American Forces Spouses' Club
AFTB Army Family Team Building
CINC Commander-in-Chief
CLASS VI Package/Liquor Store
CFC Combined Forces Command
COLA Cost of Living Allowance
CRC Camp Red Cloud
DMZ Demilitarized Zone
DPW Directorate of Public Works
DSN Defense Switching Network
DEROS Date Estimated Return from Overseas
DODDS Department of Defense Dependent School
EML Environmental Morale Leave

EUSA Eighth U.S. Army

FED Far East District

JUSMAG-K Joint U.S. Military Affairs Group, Korea

KATUSA Korean Augmentee to the U.S. Army

MWR Morale, Welfare and Recreation

NEO Non Combatant Evacuation Operation

OHA Overseas Housing Allowance

POV Privately Owned Vehicle

ROK (A) Republic of Korea (Army)

SAES Seoul American Elementary School

SAMS Seoul American Middle School

SAHS Seoul American High School

SOFA Status of Forces Agreement

SUSLAK Special U.S. Liaison Advisor, Korea

USAG-Y U.S. Army Garrison-Korea

USFK U.S. Forces Korea

USO United Services Organization

ADULT EDUCATION - There are many programs available both on post and in Seoul. Check the Education Center located in Bldg. 2212, second floor, on Main Post (in the same building as the Main Post - Post Office). Counselors are available for military and family members. You can pick up pamphlets and brochures from the various colleges. For more information, call 723-4290/7194/8098. Classes meet at various locations. Programs vary but include:

□ 2-year Program - Central Texas College 723-4296

(www.ctc-pac.com)

□ 4-year Program - University of Maryland 723-4300

(www.ad.umuc.edu)

□ Graduate Programs - University of Oklahoma 723-4181

(www.ou.edu) / University of Phoenix 723-7807 (www.phoenix.edu) /

Troy University 723-7508 (www.tsupacific.net)

- Off-Post - There are many educational programs available in Seoul. Contact the local education counselors for more information.
- Korean Language classes - Check with ACS for free classes. There is a tuition cost for the on-post classes through the local colleges.

ADULT SPORTS - Intramural sports activities, including basketball, softball and soccer are available for adults. Contact Collier Field House (on South Post) 736-4032. Information on tournaments in basketball, racquetball, power lifting, tennis, etc. - contact the USAG-Yongsan sports director at 738-8608. For more information on equipment and classes (e.g. aerobics, racquetball, martial arts classes, etc.) contact the Collier Field House director at 736-7746 or Trent Gym on Main Post at 724-8466.

- Running/Jogging: There are 5k and 10k “fun runs” on South Post most weekends. Look for the advertising sign outside Collier Field House. Reflective vest required.
 - Bowling: see BOWLING CENTER
 - Sports clubs - see CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS for contacts on tennis, golf and others.
- See FITNESS CENTERS for additional information.

AIRLINES - The US Airline Alliance is the contracted on-post travel agency for official and leisure travel, offering a full range of travel products. For official travel and emergency leave contact the passenger travel office in 725-6173. It is located on the second floor of Moyer Center (Bldg. 2259) on Main post. Also located on the second floor of Moyer is the leisure travel office. Numbers for the airlines in this office are: Delta/Korean Air (725-6977), Northwest/Asiana (725-7104), United (725-5693). They are open 7 days a week. Additional offices are located at the Dragon Hill Lodge; call 738-2222 ext.6800. Fares vary widely, and frequently an airline will be running a special promo-

tion, which could save you hundreds of dollars. In addition, The USO, located next to Camp Kim, also has a travel office “Apple Tours” which offers trips throughout Asia. See “USO” for more information.

AMERICAN RED CROSS Together, we can save a life.

The American Red Cross is the organization chosen by Congress to help carry out the obligations assumed by the United States under certain international treaties known as the Geneva Conventions. Specifically, the Red Cross Charter delegates to the American Red Cross the duties to act as the medium of voluntary relief and communications between the American People and their Armed Forces, and to provide a system of national and international relief to prevent and mitigate suffering caused by disaster.

The primary mission of the American Red Cross in Korea is to serve military personnel and their families; to improve the quality of human life; to enhance self-reliance and concern for others; and to help people avoid, prepare for, and cope with emergencies. The American Red Cross office in Yongsan is located in the Moyer Recreation Center on the 2nd floor of Bldg. 2259, Room 215, DSN 738-3670 Fax 738-9012, Commercial 02-7918-3670 Fax 02-7918-9012.

The 121st Combat Support Hospital and its clinics, host a wide spectrum of Red Cross volunteers. This volunteer pool supplements and assists with programs relating to the health, welfare, and morale of military personnel and their families. Additionally, American Red Cross services include Health and Safety services ranging from CPR, First Aid and AED classes, Life Guarding and Water Safety, Babysitters Training, Instructor Training and Disaster Services. Red Cross volunteers are the back bone of this organization.

With each military community throughout Korea offering a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, any interested and motivated soldier, sailor, airman, marine or family member can find a place to contribute their skills to the community. Leadership positions, administrative positions within each Red Cross office, and casework positions (both paid and volunteer positions instrumental in the delivery of emergency message traffic) are but a few of the unique challenges that await our volunteers and those interested in making a difference.

RED CROSS SERVICES

ARMED FORCES EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Red Cross provides rapid communications between military members, DOD civilians, and their families regarding death, serious illness, child care breakdowns, birth, health and welfare reports, and other personal or family problems.

You can help ensure that your message is passed in a timely manner by making sure your family has your current rank, social security number, and military address. Family members back home should call their local Red Cross to request emergency message service. To locate any local chapter quickly, on a computer, access <http://www.redcross.org/> and enter the zip code in the space provided.

Sometimes, you may have a need to start a Red Cross message here, in Korea. Just call your local Red Cross Office, during duty hours, or the Yongsan Office 24/7 at DSN: 738-3670 or Commercial: 02-7918-3670. Your message will be initiated, assigned a Case Number and sent to the States for service, immediately.

1. From Korea, how do I send a Message?

Call your installation Red Cross Office during duty hours – or the Yongsan Office after hours – and a Caseworker will process your message. To expedite service, please provide as much pertinent information related to the situation, as possible. For example: local point of contact name and phone numbers, doctor's name and phone number, location of patient, your 1SG's name and phone numbers (on and off duty), anything else that will help to service your case quickly and efficiently.

2. What do I do if I get a message?

If an emergency message comes into the Red Cross office for you, your 1SG will be called to copy its contents and deliver them to you. If a non-emergency message arrives, then every effort will be made to locate you in order to deliver its contents to you directly. Should this be unsuccessful, then your 1SG will be contacted to assist Red Cross in locating you.

Once you have received your message, you should discuss the situation with your Chain of Command so that the proper leave determination can be made, and the subsequent paperwork can be completed for you.

3. Will the service pay my way home? My wife and kids?

If you have been given Emergency Leave with Funded Travel Orders, then the military will pay for your plane ticket to a port of entry on the west coast. Any follow through travel will be your responsibility. Ordinary Leave under Emergency Conditions requires that you pay for the entire plane ticket. As situations vary case by case, it is suggested that you contact your Chain of Command regarding Travel Regulations for your family, and your Military Aid Society normal duty hours or the American Red Cross After-Hours and Holidays on behalf of the Aid Societies for assistance.

HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING:

Health and Safety classes may vary within most military communities. Please contact your local area Red Cross station for class availability and cost.

Classes that may be offered in your area include:

First Aid/CPR: Adult, Infant, Child, w/AED

First Aid/CPR for Military Units

Water Safety Courses

Babysitting Training & Home on Your Own

Pet First Aid.

ARTS & CRAFTS - The Yongsan Arts and Crafts center, voted best in the Pacific 2006(South Post, Bldg. 4253/4254; call 738-4750, next to Shoppette) offer classes in ceramics, photography, pottery, cake decorating, painting, flower arranging, and framing. Drawing and craft classes are offered for children, as well as birthday parties. There is a well-equipped woodshop and gallery. The staff will also mat and frame for a nominal fee. The staff can direct you to almost any type of art supplies needed. Local markets, like Dongdaemun and Namdaemun, E-mart, and the Alpha Store (chain of Art/Stationary stores) also have a broad range of art, craft, stationery and architectural supplies available (see www.afsckorea.org website for shopping guides to these markets).

AUTOMOBILES - Picking up and shipping your car: The Yongsan Vehicle Processing Center is located at TMP (Transportation Motor Pool – directly across the street from Gate 52, “Commissary” Gate). All processing, pick-up, and outbound shipments are handled through this Center. For further information, please call 736-7086/7088.

1. Prior to picking up your vehicle, you must have a USFK driver's license (See DRIVER'S LICENSE). Your stateside license can be used to legally drive in Korea, but only for the first 30 days after your arrival.

2. To pick up and register a shipped vehicle, you will need an ID card, Vehicle Inspection Shipping Form (VISF-issued by port of embarkation to owner), a copy of your orders authorizing shipment to Korea, proof of insurance and your USFK driver's license.

3. You will need to obtain a vehicle safety inspection from the Car Care Center located at Camp Kim (outside Gate 1/also known as the PX gate) or the Auto Skills Center located up on the hill behind Itaewon Acres housing area (turn right inside Gate 52 and take the first left).

4. Once your inspection is complete, you must take the inspection form and the completed registration forms to the Provost Marshal Office (PMO) at Camp Kim (Bldg. 1230, 724-5768/4811). They will then give you your license plates, which you must mount (or have mounted at the Car Care Center). You will have to mount these standard-sized plates on the front and rear of your vehicle – sometimes vanity plate holders do not hold these plates properly. There is a special bolt that must be affixed to your plates which can be difficult, depending on your vehicle.

Motorcycles and Mopeds: Each operator of a two-wheeled vehicle is required to have completed a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic (BRC) or Experienced Riders Course (ERC). The course completion card must be valid within the last 3 years. If not, you will have to attend a course in Korea prior to obtaining a two-wheeled vehicle endorsement on your USFK Driver's License. The courses are offered at numerous locations throughout Korea. For more information, contact

the IMCOM - Korea Region Safety Office at DSN: 724-5443 or email safedriving@korea.army.mil.

To register your motorcycle you will need to present the following documents to the PMO:

- ☐ Identification Card
- ☐ Proof of Ownership and Insurance
- ☐ A valid USFK POV Driver's License with motorcycle endorsement.
- ☐ Motorcycle Safety Foundation (ERC/BRC) Completion Card
- ☐ Inspection Certificate (must be less than 30 days old).

Other Automobile Information:

☐ **Buying a used car:** Used cars range from \$500 to \$3,000. These vehicles are generally well suited to drive on-post, as they are truly "hoopties". However, caution must be taken if you plan on driving these vehicles for any long distance or off- post. Korean law is very strict and many soldiers have found themselves barred from leaving the country for even the slightest fender bender. As a general guideline, anything off post can be much easier accessed via the public transit offered out any of the immediate gates.

☐ If you want to buy a used Korean or American car, the best place to look is on the bulletin boards at the Main PX, Moyer Community Activities Center, or in the Townhouse (food court at the PX). In order to register a used vehicle with the PMO, you need a record of vehicle inspection from the Car Care Center (weekdays only) or the Auto Skills Center on South Post within the last 30 days, a USFK driver's license, a bill of sale and proof of insurance. If you have questions, call the PMO at 724-4811, bldg 1230, Camp Kim.

☐ **Importing a new American car:** If you want to import a new American made car, you can ship it during the first 6 months after arrival on your orders (providing of course you have not already shipped one).

□ **Importing a new foreign car:** If you want to import a new foreign-made car, you need to get a memorandum from the unit commander and the PMO recommending approval. You will also have to pay shipping and customs costs. Also, remember to have in writing whether you want American specifications or not.

□ **Buying a new car:** On post there is AAFES Exchange New Car Sales Offices located near the Community Bank by the PX, the Gallery, and at the Dragon Hill Lodge. You can email them at exch@militarycars.com or visit their website at www.encs.com. There are many dealerships off post as well, but be sure to choose a reputable dealers.

Vehicle maintenance:

There are several options available for maintaining your car:

□ **AAFES Garage** - The Car Care Center is a service operation located at Camp Kim. The center can perform most major maintenance. Some parts are available at the Center, but it is not possible for the garage to stock every part for every automobile, and special orders can be costly. For more information, call 724-6037. Parts can also be purchased over the Internet.

□ **Auto Skills Center** - Located on South Post near Itaewon Acres housing area. There are mechanics available for car inspections, license plate mounting, etc. The facility also provides areas for vehicle owners to complete their own oil changes and minor maintenance. For more information, call 738-5042/5315.

□ **Korean Garages** - There are many garages on the economy around Yongsan, and people prefer to use them for a variety of reasons. The Auto Skills Center may be able to refer you to a helpful garage. Generally the best way of finding a good mechanic on the economy, particularly if you know a person with a car similar to yours who has used local services.

NOTE: Secure your personal property: A word about vehicle security-

although it is a common practice for many people to leave personal property in their cars for convenience, it is against U.S. Army policy to pay a claim for items stolen from your vehicle unless it is something like a jack, a spare tire, a first aid kit, or a baby seat.

B

BANKING/CHECK CASHING

□ **Community Bank**- operates the banking facilities on all posts and bases in Korea. The bank offers full-service banking: direct deposit, won conversion, auto loans (new and used), and ATM access. The Community Bank ATM card offers 24/7 banking with no fees for withdrawing U.S. Dollars or Korean Won, or for balance inquiries. In Korea, Community Bank offers 13 full time branches, 2 part time offices and a network of 51 ATMs; ask for a flyer with listings at any branch.

□ **Branches:** Dragon Hill Lodge, 738-3520/5540 open M-F (in addition to 2 ATMs); Main Post, 738-3520/5540 next to the Mini-Mall (open T-F and Monday paydays, with two ATMs); there is an ATM in Hannam Village and two on South Post (across from the Chosun Gift Shop and at the Commissary). The Community Bank Mobile Banking Van travels to remote locations.

□ **U.S.A. Federal Credit Union** - Services offered: online banking, credit and debit cards, auto loan, line of credit, signature loans, CDs and IRAs. No ATM. For more information call: 725-4056/3282 or stop

in bldg. 1479, across from the Townhouse on Main Post. This Credit Union has agreements with many stateside Credit Unions that may enable you to perform immediate transactions with no additional fees; contact your Credit Union for details.

❑ **Other Bank cards:** You may obtain cash or make account inquiries with your credit card, or any other ATM card which displays the AFFN or CIRRUS Network logo. Ask your bank about service fees that may apply.

❑ **Check Cashing:** Many people elect to keep their checking account at a U.S. bank or credit union since cashing checks on post is really not a problem. The Community Bank will cash a check for up to \$500 on a stateside account (for a fee – no third party checks), or more with the manager's approval. Checks can also be cashed at PX cash registers and at the various clubs if you're a member. The U.S.A. Federal Credit Union also has a banking facility on post and will cash checks on a stateside account up to the amount on your account if you're a member. First month's rent and security deposit checks ONLY can be cashed at 175th Finance.

Note: The banks on-post observe both US and Korean Holidays so please plan accordingly.

BARBER SHOPS - There are several barbershops on Yongsan. Current locations are 121st Combat Support Hospital South Post Bldg 7005; Camp Coiner (Mini Mall) Bldg 1094; JUSMAG-K Main Post Bldg 1575; Main Post (Mini Mall/Four Seasons) Bldg 1447; South Post (Mini Mall/Shoppette) Bldg 4259; South Post (By One Stop Processing. Center) Bldg 4035. Drive by to check hours of operation.

BEAUTY SHOPS - There are many nice salons on post specializing in

manicures, pedicures, massages, and hairstyling. Locations: Dragon Hill Lodge Clippers (newly renovated), Main Beauty Shop (Mini Mall/ Four Seasons - Bldg 4257) Stylique (located next to the Yongsan Fire Station, South Post), Magic Mirror (South Post across from the Shopette - Bldg 4257), and Hannam Village Bldg K. Prices vary for some services, ask for pricing beforehand.

BLACK MARKETING - Under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), the United States is allowed to import certain products, duty free, for the Commissary and Exchange services. These products are strictly for the personal use of authorized personnel. Black Marketing is the illegal sale of those goods into the Korean economy. This practice can be cause for severe disciplinary action. Controlling Black Marketing was the original goal of ration control. You can report anyone who is engaged in this practice to the Black Marketing Hotline: 738-5111.

BOWLING CENTER - Yongsan Lanes is located on Main Post. It offers numerous bowling leagues, including a youth league, and specials for the Yongsan community. The center can also be used for birthday parties or special events. They also have a Food Court offering pizza, burgers, and tacos. For more information and operational hours call 723-7830/5820.

BUSINESS CARD - Once you arrive in country you will quickly realize the value of having some business cards on hand. Remember, the military is smaller than you think. You will be meeting a variety of new friends and possibly old friends. It is customary in the Korean culture to give a business card to a new acquaintance. It is also a lot easier to have some of your basic information to pass out at a moments notice. Even if you don't have a cell phone or home phone yet, most people have email addresses. (Remember you can check your emails for FREE at the Library). Bring around 50 business cards made up ahead

of time with your name and email address and you can write in the rest as you get your own information. Keep one for your self and write on the back of it important numbers you may want to keep on hand when you first get here(i.e., taxi service, CDC, Youth Services). It makes it a lot easier when you are first in processing (hand caring tons of paper-work) to quickly pull out a business card. If you have older children have them make some business cards up ahead of time too. They will meet a lot of kids at the Dragon Hill and around post when they first get here. Use a reputable printer or you might find yourself having the cards reprinted several times until they are correct. One way to avoid mistakes is to type the information to give to the printer. There is a print shop in the Gallery on Main Post. Once you are established, getting business cards printed is very inexpensive. There are vendors in Moyer as well as the Gallery (see MCAC and Gallery for more info.) The Oriental Press is also located on Main Post, also does printing. Call 738-5005 or contact: oppress@kornet.net. Cards can be printed in English on one side and Hangul on the other.

C

CABLE TELEVISION - American Forces Radio and Television

Reception in Korea American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) programming provides a wide range of broadcasts as well as important force protection advisories (on-post only) that are essential in sustaining a high quality of life and well being while serving in Korea. **Korean cable packages no longer carry AFRTS TV channels.** Service members, DOD civilians and their families who reside off-post will need to lease a decoder box and have an AFRTS Direct to Home

(DTH) satellite dish installed in order to obtain Armed Forces Network (AFN) programming. The decoder box and satellite dish are available through the Power Zone in the Post Exchange. An AFRTS DTH satellite dish and associated equipment are available for purchase at \$157.00 and a decoder box is leased for \$13.00 per month. Installation service in the Seoul area is available through NASA, an off post Korean company. Nasa point of contact for satellite dish installation is Mr. Shin, Hui-tae at 02-717-2256/2257. Installation costs range from \$150 to \$200 depending on site conditions and currency exchange fluctuation. **Some apartment complexes and rental properties do not allow installation of AFRTS DTH equipment** (refer to the list provided by the Housing Office). AFRTS is the main means of receiving key Command information messages and policies (which this rental equipment does not carry). **Please weigh AFRTS access availability carefully before entering into a lease agreement.** All service members and DoD civilians who decide to rent housing that does not allow installation of DTH equipment must sign a Housing Office statement of acknowledgement. If the landlord allows installation of AFRTS DTH equipment on his property, obtain written permission first (see "Permission to Install AFN DTH Satellite Dish" memorandum). For information on satellite dish installation, refer to "Off Base Landlord Instructions for DTH Satellite Dish Installation". USAG Yongsan Housing Office is working with landlords/real-estate offices to make the experience of serving in Korea and living off post a more positive and memorable one. For more information contact Mr. Kim, Tong Sik at 738-3489. **Cable TV, offered through MWR, is only available to families living on post.** A pamphlet on the basic and premium channels offered, as well as the fees (which are around 30.00 a month plus 5.00 for each additional converter box(as of Jan 2007)) is available at the CATV Business office is located at building #4891 (South Post, beyond the Car Care Center); phone: 738-2288/4310. A second office is in the ACS building, Rm. 236. It is open from 8a.m.-1p.m. and 2-4:30. Direct

to Home cable TV is a new service being offered through AAFES to families living off-post. Programming is limited to AFN channels. Be prepared for an installation fee, monthly decoder fee, as well the purchase cost of the satellite dish. Contact the PX Power Zone at 724-7793.

CARPETS - Bring carpets with you if you have room in your household shipment. If not, there are rugs and carpets available at the PX, Cho-sun Gift Shop, AAFES vendors, and on the economy.

CELL PHONES – A virtual necessity in Korea! Unfortunately, most American cell phones will not work in Korea (and vice versa). The good news is your Korean cell phone will work throughout the country (except at the DMZ), including subways and most buildings.

□ **Where to buy a phone:** The PX has a concession in the lobby. New and used phones are available (\$60-\$500). The sales ladies are very helpful. The Thrift Store sells used phones (with pre-programmed number and charger) for \$25.00. The Business Center in the Dragon Hill Lodge also sells used cell phones. There is also another phone center upstairs of Starbucks on Embassy hill. Many people use the option of going with a Korean friend off-post, sometimes even to Osan, to find a better deal on a phone. An English display may be a feature you want.

□ **Service:** When you purchase a phone, you automatically get a particular “service”. 010 is considered by many to be the best, and in some cases, with 010 service, you can choose your number. 011, 016, 017, and 019 are some of the other services. All cell numbers begin with one of these prefixes; e.g., 010-xxxx-xxxx or 016-yyy-yyyy.

□ **Buying Time:** As foreigners it is difficult to set up a monthly, billed phone service. “Buying time” or purchasing a phone card (usually 10,000 won minimum per month) that can be programmed into the

phone is a convenient option. More time can be purchased and added, or have several months programmed in at a time. Once you have used up your minutes, you cannot make outgoing calls until you add more although you can still receive calls. The PX concession is a convenient place to buy “phone time,” and they will program your phone for you. Ask for details about programming cards and expiration dates when purchasing your phone so that you don’t run into a problem later.

❑ **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The U.S. Military and the Korean government require drivers to use a “hands free” device (no headsets). If you must take a call while driving, find a safe place to pull over and take the call.

CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES - Child and Youth Services (CYS) programs are located on Yongsan South Post and Hannam Village and serves children/youth from 6 weeks to 18 years of age. Programs include: Child Development Center (CDC), School-Age Services (SAS), Middle School/Teen Centers, Youth Sports, and **SKIES Unlimited** Instructional Classes. To participate in any of these CYS programs, registration is required. To register, visit the CYS Central Enrollment Registry (CER) Office located in Bldg. #4211 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Dependents of U.S. Military, DoD civilians, N.A.F., or U.S. Embassy employees who are USFK ID cardholders may register. Note: the priority of placement for children in the full-day CDC program and SAS will be given to children who are from dual/single military families and dual DoD working civilians (AR 608-10, paragraph 1-6). For information, call CER at 738-5036/3001. Below is a list of the CYS programs:

Child Development Center (CDC) offers full-day care, Hourly Care, Part-Day Preschool, and Kindergarten before- and after-school care in Bldg. #4280. The full-day program runs from 0545 to 1800; Part-Day Preschool from 0830 to 1130, MWF, T/TH, or 5-days; and Hourly Care

from 0800 to 1500. 738-3406/3407 (CDC Hourly Care is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Patrons can call as early as 6 a.m. to make a reservation.)

School-Age Services (SAS) offers before- and after-school care and activities for children in the first through fifth grades. 738-4707/3051

Middle School Center is located in Bldg. #4215 and serves youth in grades 6-8.

738-2310/4557

Teen Center is located on Yongsan South Post (Bldg. 4270) next door to Commiskey's Restaurant and serves youth in grades 9-12.

738-8113/4557

Hannam Middle School/Teen Center is located in the Hannam Village housing area and serves youth in grades 6-12.

723-8761/738-4557

Youth Sports are available all year and include baseball/softball/t-ball, soccer, basketball, volleyball, flag football, and swimming. Sports clinics are offered during the summer. 738-8117/5567

SKIES Unlimited Instructional Classes are offered year round and include martial arts, piano lessons, drivers' education, dance, gymnastics, and American Sign Language.

738-8122

In addition to these programs, a "**Summer Trek**" program, which consists of a multitude of summer camp-type programs and classes, is available in all CYS programs for children from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Volunteering for CYS programs: CYS is always in need of adult volunteers and coaches for the various Youth Sports programs. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call 738-8117/5567 or 738-4557.

CHOSUN GIFT SHOP - This beautiful shop on South Post offers a wide range of carefully selected merchandise from all over the Orient. Oriental rugs, jewelry from many countries, beautiful linens, cloisonné, rosewood furniture, wicker, Japanese Imari porcelains...these are only a few of the items available at the Chosun. Nothing from Korea is sold in the shop. The Chosun is located on South Post in Bldg 4223, near the Furniture Store. The shop is operated by American Forces Spouses' Club (AFSC) and is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1000 - 1500 (Closed for the month of July). The Chosun is a multi-faceted operation whose mission is to generate profits to be used by the AFSC for Korean Welfare Projects and American Projects in Korea. These include: schools, orphanages, rehabilitation, scholarships, scouts, USO, youth activities, and the Red Cross. The Chosun is open to all individuals over 10 years old with valid ID and ration card (visitors need an authorization letter/ration card). Profits from the store benefit many worthy causes – volunteers are the backbone of this operation. Come by to pick up a volunteer application and find out how you can be part of this great team! This is a wonderful place to make friends and give back to the community. Great volunteer incentive program where you earn dollars to go towards your future purchases as well as early bird shopping before the store opens to regular customers. Make this one of your top 10 things to do once you arrive and you won't regret it! Call 738-5058. (Note: Children under the age of 10 years old are not permitted inside unless carried in the arms of an adult.)

CHRISTMAS TREES - There are three choices for obtaining a Christmas tree in Korea:

- The Boy Scouts sell live-cut trees imported from the U.S. The trees usually arrive shortly after Thanksgiving and are sold at a lot in Blackhawk housing area on South Post throughout December.
- Artificial trees may be purchased at the AAFES Four Seasons Store

in the Mini Mall on Main Post.

- Both live and artificial trees are available on the economy, though they are much more expensive than those available on post.
- Christmas Tree Stands: It is recommended to bring a tree stand with you; most of the time they are not available in stores.

CLAIMS - The local carrier delivering your household goods or unaccompanied baggage should give you 3 copies of a pink form, your DD 1840/1840R. Damaged and missing items noticed at the time of delivery are to be listed on the DD 1840. DO NOT let carriers suggest or push you into delaying listing discrepancies on the DD 1840R. Such a suggestion is self-serving on their part, not to help you. It is best to find as much of the damage/loss, if any, on the day of delivery, however, damage/loss discovered later may be listed on the DD 1840R.

FULL REPLACEMENT VALUE (FRV) applies to shipments with a pick up date on or after 1 October 2007 for International Household Goods (HHG), 1 November 2007 for Domestic HHG and 1 March 2008 for Non-Temporary Storage (NTS), Direct Procurement Method (DPM) (local moves, OCONUS shipments (intra-theater), possibly unaccompanied baggage shipments, and small HHG shipments.

□ **FRV For Lost or Destroyed Items** - Claim **MUST** be filed **within 9 months of delivery**. The transportation service provider (TSP) is **REQUIRED** to replace any item that is lost or destroyed with a new item, or pay the cost of a new item of the same kind and quality, without deducting for depreciation. The TSP is not required to replace items which can be repaired for less than the Full Replacement Value of the item. The TSP is only required to arrange for the repair of those items, or to pay for the cost of the repairs. Repair will be to the extent necessary to restore the item to its condition when it was received by the TSP. An item is considered destroyed if it cannot be repaired, or if the

cost of repair would exceed the cost of a new item.

□ **Timely Notice** – Loss or damage to an item **MUST** be reported to the TSP **within 75 days of the date of delivery**. The TSP **MUST** list all missing or damaged items that are discovered on the day of delivery on DD Form 1840, which you will also sign. Three (3) copies of this form will be left with you by the TSP. Items discovered missing or damaged **AFTER delivery MUST** be listed on the reverse side of the DD Form 1840, known as the DD Form 1840R, and mailed to the carrier **within 75 days after delivery**. Alternatively, the DD Form 1840R may be taken to the nearest military claims office (MCO) **within 70 days after delivery**.

□ **Claim Must Be Filed Within 9 Months to Receive FRV** – Submission of DD Form 1840R does not constitute the filing of a claim. You **MUST** submit a written demand for a specific amount, listing the items lost or damaged, to the carrier within 9 months after the date of delivery.

□ The TSP will provide instructions on how to file a claim. The claim **MUST** list each item was lost or damaged and give a general description of the damage. You do not need to obtain estimates of repair in order to file your claim. The carrier is responsible for obtaining estimates, if you file your claim directly with the carrier within **9 months of delivery**. Do not delay filing your claim past the nine-month deadline in order to get additional information you think the carrier may need. If your claim has been timely filed, additional information may be presented at a later time.

□ **Limits of Liability** – A carrier is liable for a **minimum of \$5,000** on any shipment, regardless of the shipment's weight. For shipments that weigh more than 1,250 pounds, liability is limited to **\$4.00 per pound** times the weight of your shipment, up to a **maximum of \$50,000**. If the amount of your loss exceeds the carrier's maximum liability, you may

file a claim with the Army for any loss in excess of the carrier's payment. However, the Army can only pay the depreciated replacement value or repair cost, whichever is less, for those items for which the carrier did not pay.

□ **Settlement of Loss and Damage Claims** – The TSP shall pay, deny, or make an offer within 60 days of receipt of a complete, substantiated claim. The TSP will complete payment to the owner within 30 days of receipt of notice that the owner has accepted a full or partial settlement.

□ **Partial Settlements** - If you cannot reach a mutually acceptable settlement directly with the TSP on part of your claim, you can accept payment from the TSP on those items on which you and the TSP have reached agreement. The TSP will pay you on the items on which you have reached an agreement. You may transfer any unsettled portions of the claim to a MCO.

□ **Quick Claims** - The TSP may establish a quick claim settlement procedure to quickly resolve and pay claims for minor loss or damage discovered at the time of delivery. Quick claims cover payment for **less than \$500** with payment made **within** 5 days of delivery. The process of settling and paying such claims will be left to the discretion of each TSP. The quick claim must specifically list the items and the damage for which payment is being made. If you receive a "quick" claim settlement and then file an additional claim, the additional claim may not include items that were settled through the quick claim process.

□ **Inspection of Items by the TSP** - The TSP may inspect the damaged items at any time prior to settlement of the claim, but may not deny a claim solely on the basis that it was unable to inspect any item.

If you repaired an item before the TSP inspection, you must provide the repair bill or some other evidence of the damage and repair cost to the TSP. If you disposed of a damaged item, you must give the TSP evidence that the item was damaged beyond economical repair. Before a claim is filed, you may call the TSP and request an inspection, or permission to dispose of items. The TSP, **within two (2) business days** of being contacted, will notify you either that the items will be inspected or that you may dispose of the items. When the TSP gives notice to inspect the items, the TSP will do so **within 45 calendar days** of being contacted by the owner unless the owner grants a further extension.

□ **Salvage** - The TSP is entitled to take possession of and sell for salvage any damaged item on which either it has paid the depreciated or undepreciated replacement cost, or replaced the damaged item with a new item. If the lost item is located, you may either decide to request or decline delivery of the item. If you elect to receive a found item, you must refund any amount paid on that item. If the TSP locates an item within 60 days of receipt of notice of the loss, and a claim on that item has not yet been paid, you are obligated to accept delivery of the item in lieu of a claim, even if you have replaced the item. If the TSP locates a lost item more than 60 days after receipt of notice of the loss, but the item has not been replaced, and a claim on the item has not been paid, you are obligated to accept delivery of the item in lieu of a claim. If a lost item is later delivered with damage, the time limits for qualifying for FRV protection and for filing claims on that item will not commence until the delivery of that item.

□ **Essential Items** - The TSP is responsible for promptly dealing with owners who have had essential items lost, destroyed or made unusable due to damage. You **must** notify the TSP, MCO, or PPSO of such a loss within 7 days of the date their goods were delivered.

Essential items include but are not limited to: (1) Refrigerators or other appliances necessary for the safe storage and preparation of food, (2) Necessary medical equipment and (3) Mattresses. Upon notification of the loss of an essential item, **within two (2) business days**, the TSP shall either pay for such items, provide temporary or permanent replacements for them, or such other arrangement as agreed to by you. Any payments made by the TSP shall be considered an advance on any claim, and should not exceed the TSP expected total liability. You are required to file a claim for the loss. Any advance payment will be deducted from your eventual award.

❑ **Catastrophic Loss Payments** - The TSP is responsible for identifying and making partial, advance payments to you for a catastrophic loss to relieve hardships associated with the loss of all or a majority of household goods or unaccompanied baggage. Catastrophic loss occurs when over 60% of the inventory line items in a given shipment are lost, damaged or destroyed. The payments are an advance and will not exceed the expected total liability. You are required to file a claim. Any advance payment made will be deducted from your eventual award. Payments are subject to the same maximum liability and rules as all payments. The TSP will make payment or come to an agreement on payment within 48 hours of contacting you.

❑ **High Value Items and High Risk Items** - High value items are limited to currency, coins, jewelry, silverware and silver service sets, crystal, figurines, furs, objects of art, computer software programs, manuscripts, comic books, baseball cards, stamps, and other collectable items or rare documents that have a value in excess of \$100 per pound. Individual CDs or DVDs with a value in excess of \$50 will be considered a high value item. If you fail to inform the TSP that such items are included in the shipment after asked by the TSP in writing, to list any such items in the above categories that will be included in the

shipment, the TSP liability for high value items shall be limited to \$100 per pound of the article.

□ Items such as CD's, video tapes and DVDs, that do not qualify as high value items for purposes of this provision limiting liability may be included on a **high risk inventory**. Your responsibilities at delivery: You and the TSP **must** open all containers in which the high risk/high value items were packed; remove the items from the containers and physically inspect each item **before you sign** the high risk/high value inventory form.

There is no additional cost to the Customer for FRV coverage, but the Customer must file the claim directly with the TSP within nine months of delivery by using the DD Form 1844 to receive FRV. The TSP will settle the claim by repairing or paying to repair damaged items. The TSP will pay FRV cost on items that need replacing or have been lost or destroyed. When the claim is filed directly with the TSP, the TSP will be responsible for obtaining all repair and replacement costs.

If the TSP denies the Customers full claim, makes an offer on the claim that is not acceptable, or does not respond within 30 days, the Customer may transfer the claim to the Military Claims Office (MCO). If a Customer files a claim with the TSP after nine months, but before the two-year time limit for filing the claim, the TSP is only liable for depreciated value of lost or damaged items.

If the TSP does not respond to the claim within 30 days, or makes an offer that the Customer does not accept, the Customer may transfer the claim to the MCO within nine months of delivery. If the Customer transfers the claim, the MCO will only be responsible for depreciated replacement cost on the claims. The MCO will then attempt to recover FRV from the TSP. If the MCO recovers FRV, the MCO will then pay the member the difference between the depreciated cost already paid and the FRV cost.

The military claims office is located in the ACS Community Building 4106 (next to Korea Telecom) Call 738-8111/8219. All military members and DOD civilians are entitled to claims assistance - files are forwarded to appropriate agencies for adjudication

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

□ **American Forces' Spouses' Club** - AFSC was created by merging two longstanding organizations; the Seoul American Officers' Civilians' and Spouses' Club and the Enlisted Spouses' Club. The group is open to all military, civilians, and spouses stationed in Korea. Meetings are held monthly (September through May) at the Dragon Hill Lodge. A welcome coffee is held in early fall, but new members are welcome throughout the year. Volunteers from this club operate and staff the CHOSUN GIFT SHOP. Proceeds from the Chosun Gift Shop fund the club's Korean and American Welfare Projects. The Chosun Chatter is a monthly publication of the AFSC, and the Seoul Survivor is updated, edited, and published every year. The AFSC sponsors classes, trips, and other activities. The AFSC also sponsors classes, trips, and other activities, such as bridge club, book club, day and night bunko, hiking, international cookie, lunch bunch, needlework circle, new attitude fitness (zumba and pilates), running, scrapbooking, shop-n-tour, tennis. These are based on member interest. Membership forms are available at club meetings and at the Chosun Gift Shop. Annual dues are about \$20 /year, \$10/half year, and \$25 for a family membership. For more information, go to the AFSC website at www.afsckorea.org To download a membership form click on "News & Events!", Interested in Becoming a Member?, and then "click here".

□ **American Women's Club (AWC)** - Regular membership is open to all U.S. citizens and associate membership to all other persons. Annual dues are about \$30. AWC provides many social and cultural activities for expatriate women and families in Seoul. It sponsors newcomer coffees (normally held the second Tuesday of the month), as well as monthly lunches featuring different themes and speakers. A very popular activity is one where members can go out of Seoul (all expenses paid) for a day to interact with school children in the morning and in the afternoon tour and shop. The AWC also operates The Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop (see THRIFT SHOP), located next to the Chosun Gift Shop on South Post. The proceeds from the shop are used to support AWC charities in both the USFK and Korean Communities. AWC also publishes Arirang Magazine. www.arirang.co.kr/english/index.asp , an outstanding quarterly magazine containing articles on Korea and other Asian countries. For more information, visit the Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop and pick up a pamphlet or visit the website: www.awckorea.org.

□ **AWANAS and Bible Studies**- see RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES - Bible Studies and Religious Clubs

□ **38th Parallel Nursing and Medical Societies** - The Nurses' Society is a professional organization designed to further expertise in health care delivery and to maintain current professional knowledge. Membership is open to RN's, LPN's, NP's, CNM's, etc., military and civilian, employed or unemployed. Quarterly meetings are held which include Cues, guest speakers, and social events. For information, call the 121st General Hospital, Clinical Education at 737-5777/5010.

□ **The Medical Society** - co-sponsors a week-long annual conference in late fall, with approximately 25-35 hours of Category I CME and CEU's. Membership is open to Physicians and Physician Assis-

tants, military and civilian, employed or unemployed. For more information contact the Clinical Education Department at 737-5777.

□ **Military Clubs** - There are a number of clubs throughout post. Some, such as the Main Post Club and the Navy Club, are open to everyone. The Hartell House is a members' club, although all are welcome to dine (Discounts are offered for members).

□ **Air Force/Navy/Marine Spouses' Groups** - Each branch of these services offer its own spouses' group. Each group holds periodic informal gatherings and are open to all spouses of Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel in the Seoul area. Generally spouses will automatically be contacted regarding gatherings. On occasion, however, information on new spouses does not get to the appropriate contact. If you are not being notified of events, Air Force spouses should contact the Air Force Element (AFELM) 723-3766/8538, Navy spouses should contact the Commander Naval Forces Korea (CNFK) 723-5922, and Marine spouses should contact Marine Forces Korea (MARFORK) 723-7032 to let them know of your presence. The senior Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps spouse will then be able to provide you with information about meetings.

□ **Royal Asiatic Society** - If you are interested in knowing more about Korea, you can join this non-profit organization. RAS programs address different aspects of Korean life and culture, such as dance, music, and mask drama. Events are free, and you are encouraged to bring friends with you. RAS also sponsors excellent tours and bi-monthly lectures (all of which are announced in the local papers). Members receive discounts on the various RAS tours to places of historic and scenic interest and on the Society's publications, which include some excellent books on Korea. For more details, email the Royal Asiatic Society at raskb@kornet.net. Commercial phone: 02-763-9483. Website: www.raskb.com

□ **Seoul Computer Club** - Meets on the second Saturday of every month (2 p.m.) at the Seoul USO on Camp Kim. Website: www.seoulcc.org.

□ **Scouts** - Membership in the Girl Scouts of USA is offered through the Overseas Council based at the Scout Hut on South Post behind the Furniture Store, across from the South Post Shoppette building S4257, contact gsocseoul@yahoo.com. Membership in the Boy Scouts of America is offered through the Far East Council based at the Scout Hut beside the South Post Chapel. See SCOUTS for details.

□ **Seoul International Women's Club (SIWA)** – Seoul International Women's Association is a non-profit, volunteer organization. It is the largest international women's organization in Korea, with approximately 700 members from over 50 countries. Meetings are held monthly to provide opportunities for international exchange of cultural and social activities for women residing in Korea. A wide variety of special interest groups are also offered. SIWA sponsors a large pre-Christmas bazaar with proceeds going to welfare assistance programs. Meetings are publicized in the local papers. You can also check its website at www.siwapage.com or e-mail them at siwapage@hotmail.com.

□ **Special Interest Clubs** - There are several groups on post formed by people with specific interests. These groups meet at various locations. The best way to find out about these groups is by checking Cable Channel 3, AFN, bulletin boards, Morning Calm Newspaper, online search (Yahoo! Groups has Yongsan interest group links), or through word of mouth. If you have an interest, there is probably a group for you – or start one!

COMMISSARY - (Note: Commissaries are CLOSED on MAJOR U.S. & Korean holidays) - The Yongsan Commissary is located near

South Post Gate 52. Call 736-7070/3301. This commissary is the largest overseas commissary under one roof. For convenience, credit and debit cards are accepted for payment. **Note: Yongsan Commissary is open Tuesday through Sunday from 1000 to 1900 (Thurs & Fri until 2000). It is closed Mondays (this is a tough adjustment for many – plan ahead so you don't run out of essentials), all U.S. Federal holidays and several Korean holidays.** A smaller commissary is also located in Hannam Village (723-3892/6412). It is open Mon (1000-1900); T/W/F (1100-1800) and Sat (1000-1900). The Hannam Village Commissary is closed Thursdays, and so provides a Monday option for the desperate living on Yongsan! In Korea, patrons must present a valid ID and ration card to enter the store (visitors are NOT allowed to enter). The Command Unique Tracking System (CUTS) assists USFK law enforcement agencies in collecting data for inventory control and to curb black-marketing. For local commissary information, visit www.commissaries.com, and search the Geographical List under LOCATIONS. This site offers alphabetical and by-aisle product information, store hours, upcoming events, and much more! Also check out www.militarycoupons.com. You can use coupons up to 6 months after they are expired. Many wise shoppers have family members send them the Sunday coupons from the states. It all adds up!

Newcomers and Visitors Attention!! In order to shop at the Commissary, Shoppette, or PX you must have a ration card. If you do not you MUST Bring your orders, which are good only for your first 14 days in country. Remember No ORDERS - No SHOPPING - No EXCEPTIONS.

COMMUNITY SERVICES/RESOURCES

□ **Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service** - located on South Post, Bldg: 3792 next to the South Post Chapel. For informa-

tion call 738-6816. This organization also offers courses and prevention groups in areas of life skills (self esteem, relationships, and social skills), parenting and teen anger management. Counselors are also available in the middle school and high school.

❑ **Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)** – This office is located next to Collier Field, 736-5187. They provide Alcohol and Substance Abuse prevention information for all ages; as well as helpful tips on how to prevent Drinking and Driving. Please call for more information.

❑ **Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous** - Call 736-5187 Area II Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) for more information on meetings. Alcoholics Anonymous has its own website: www.AAinKorea.org

❑ **Alcohol Treatment Center** - located on South Post, Bldg: 5110, call 737-5208.

❑ **Army Community Service (ACS)** - ACS is the hub for programs informing and assisting military, DOD civilians, and their dependents. The ACS is staffed by professional civilian, military, and volunteer personnel. Some of the numerous programs offered are a lending closet, Army Emergency Relief, a Cross Cultural School for Korean brides in conjunction with the USO, financial management counseling, employment information and referral services, family advocacy, a veteran's advisor, volunteer opportunities, and assistance in obtaining an A-3 Visa SOFA stamp. ACS also can provide directions to many sites around Seoul. In addition, ACS can provide worldwide installation files and computer data for future postings. ACS will also send Welcome Packets to in-coming personnel upon request. ACS is located in Building 4106 on South Post, across from the Dragon Hill Lodge. Call 738-7505.

□ **Army Emergency Relief (AER)** - This program offers financial assistance for rent, food, utilities, emergency travel expenses, and other verified emergencies. Call 738-4655/7505, or visit www.aerhq.org. A Scholarship Program for college students and spouses also available on-line for stateside and overseas military family members.

□ **Army Family Team Building (AFTB)** - AFTB was created for family members to help make military life easier. Open to all military service and DOD civilian family members, AFTB is a support program which offers free classes on such topics as stress management, leadership, problem-solving, military benefits, and time management. For more information, call 738-3617 or visit www.armyfamilyteambuilding.org.

□ **Community Counseling Center** - The center offers rehabilitation counseling, individual and group therapy, education and smoking cessation for active duty, DOD civilians and family members. The Center is located in Building 5531. For more information, call 736-5060.

□ **Cross Cultural Training & Counseling Center** - located in Han-nam Village Chapel, - offers marriage, couple and group counseling, and parenting classes. Call 723-3239. The USO also offers this training. Contact the USO at Camp Kim or Moyer CAC for more information.

□ **Educational & Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS)** - This program is designed to assist parents of children from birth to age three. Free screenings are offered to assess if children are functioning at developmentally appropriate levels. A variety of services and programs are offered; for more information, call 738-5043.

□ **Employment Readiness** - (also see EMPLOYMENT) offers assistance with resume writing, employment opportunities, and job preparation. Call 738-8977 or 723-8293.

□ **Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)** - located in Bldg: 4106, Room 205. This program offers information, referral, and resource identification for military and civilian family members with special needs. The EFMP Committee meets the first Thursday of each quarter to discuss EFMP issues. It sponsors monthly support groups and activities. It also coordinates medical, educational, community support and personal services with other military agencies. Call 738-5311.

□ **Family Advocacy Program (FAP)** - The FAP is a program designed to promote of effective family functioning. Their goal is to prevent and educate families about child/spousal abuse and neglect. They offer support programs such as stress management, counseling referral, and crisis intervention. Information and assistance with foster care and adoptions is also offered. For more information call 738-8861 or 738-5150.

□ **Financial Readiness** - This program offers consumer affairs assistance, information and advocacy, financial counseling, budgeting assistance, checkbook management classes, and personal financial management classes. Call 738-7505.

□ **New Parent Support** - offers several programs including childbirth preparation classes, breast feeding support, Boots and Booties class for expectant soldiers, parenting classes, infant care, single parent support, and a children's playgroup (currently at Hannam Village, ages 3 and under). Call 723-7391 or 738-5150.

□ **Relocation Readiness** - An ACS sponsored program which provides relocation information to military personnel and families. The services of this program include newcomer orientations, welcome packets, SOFA stamp assistance, passports and visas, non-command sponsored family member assistance, the loan closet, emergency food

bank, and English/Korean and sign language classes. Contact this office if your group would like to reserve meeting space in the ACS building. Call DSN 738-7999/7186.

□ **Volunteer Program** - Directs interested parties to volunteer opportunities across the installation. Call the Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator at 738-7510, or visit www.myarmylifetoo.com

CURTAINS/MINI-BLINDS - Housing now supplies mini-blinds for all quarters on South Post and Hannam Village. They come in various shades of off-white. IF you want drapes and/or sheers, you must supply your own. Custom made sheers, drapes, and woven blinds are easily ordered through the many decorator shops available. Fabric is inexpensive and readily available if you are inclined to sew. Many talented amateur decorators are among our number here. Look for ads in the Morning Calm weekly newspaper, ask around, or post an email to the AFSC - we may be able to recommend some resources.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS - It is important to know both U.S. and Korean customs regulations. The Korean government allows all US Government employees (civilian and military) coming to Korea for an extended duty assignment to import goods duty free. This covers your household shipments, and any items shipped to you through the APO system providing they are for your own personal use. There are, however, some restrictions. You will not be allowed to import the following items:

□ Weapons (including ornamental ones), such as Firearms and Knives, Explosives or hazardous substances. Firearms for hunting may be cleared. Speak with your Travel Management Office for details; expect some bureaucracy.

- ❑ All illegal narcotics
- ❑ Protected live animals and plants or articles manufactured from them. Examples: tigers, leopards, elephants, ostrich, owls, cobras, tortoises, crocodiles, coral, etc. or any part or products made from them. This includes deer antlers.
- ❑ Precious metal (excluding ordinary golden rings, pendants, etc.), and securities
- ❑ Plants, vegetables, and agricultural products

Upon return to the United States you will again be allowed duty free entry providing all of the items you have purchased in Korea are for your own personal use, though again, there are restrictions. You will not be allowed to bring back the following:

- ❑ Heritage Items and Cultural Property (unless you have the proper export permits and/or receipts)
- ❑ Drugs not approved by the FDA
- ❑ Goods that violate trademark or copyright protections (fake designer clothes, watches, toys etc.)
- ❑ Dog and cat fur, fish and wildlife, and firearms

When traveling to the States as a “returning resident” for TDY or vacation or for a person returning from a visit with you in Korea, \$400 in foreign manufactured items may be carried back duty free. This amount is per family member (i.e. a family of four can carry back up to \$1,600 of duty free merchandise) Also, under current regulations, you and your visitors can mail up to \$200 worth of merchandise for personal use and up to \$100 worth of gifts to the States duty free per day. For more information, you can visit the following websites: Korean Customs: www.customs.go.kr/eng and US Customs: www.customs.gov or www.customs.ustreas.gov (click on Travel, and then click on “Know Before You Go”)

D

D

DENTAL SERVICES - There are three dental clinics located on Yongsan (Seoul). Carius Dental Clinic treats active duty only. Dental Clinic #3 sees children (age 12 and below) and some teens ~ adult Orthodontic patients that are active duty family members. Dental Clinic #2 does provide some adult (age 13 and above) general dentistry care to active duty family members. Generally, at DC #2, fillings and cleanings are available and Specialist care (root canals, crowns, implants, gum surgery) is not. Patients eligible for care are prioritized in accordance with AR 40-3. The priorities are as follows:

- ☐ active-duty service members
- ☐ family members of active-duty personnel
- ☐ senior ROTC of the Armed Forces
- ☐ retired members of the uniformed services
- ☐ family members of employees covered by AR 40-3
- ☐ others

Except for active duty family members, no other category of Other Than Active Duty (OTAD) patients can be scheduled at the dental clinics in Yongsan because of soldier readiness issues and resource constraints. The only exception to this is that emergency dental problems are screened for all eligible patient categories.

The dental treatment policy throughout Korea is designed to ensure the dental readiness of assigned active-duty soldiers. Therefore, active duty family members requiring routine care are seen only as readiness, time and resources allow. Active duty family members can use the TRICARE Dental Program – OCONUS to get dental treatment and are

highly encouraged to stay enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program. If possible, try to have your teeth cleaned and all dental work completed before you arrive in Korea. Website is: www.tricare dentalprogram.com

If you have any questions about the dental services available, ask your sponsor or write to the 18th MEDCOM Dental Consultant, ATTN: DC #2 TDP-O Patient Coordinator, Unit # 15652, APO AP 96205-5652 and give specifics about your situation. You may also phone DSN (315) 736-5051 or COMM 011-82-2-7916-5051. (Note: Command sponsored dependents are allowed 1 cleaning per year and children are allowed 2 cleanings per year.)

DIGITAL BUSINESS CENTER: This is a new center located in the Embassy Club next to Starbucks (Bldg 8105). They offer a variety of services and electronic devices including: cell phones (new and used) cell phone plans, GPS systems, internet access, cyber games, document printing, copying, scanning, document binding and finishing, digital photo printing, fax services, PC software and hardware upgrades, and some office supplies. They offer free pickup and delivery for your printing and copy orders in the Yongsan area. For more information call 02-749-2800 or email at dbc2004@kornet.

DRAGON HILL LODGE – The Dragon Hill Lodge is an army hotel on Yongsan Garrison. Located in the middle of Seoul, it is one of four Armed Forces Recreation Centers . The hotel has 394 guest rooms, six restaurants and two lounges. The hotel guestroom contains a queen size bed, a sleeper sofa, a refrigerator and microwave oven, TV with MWR cable, DVD/VCR player, ironing board, coffee maker, fireproof safe, and a complete set of utensils for in-room dining. Cribs are available at no extra charge. The Dragon Hill was built entirely with non-appropriated funds and has become the heart of community activities in Area II. PCS personnel have priority and may make reserva-

tions one year in advance. Market Square, the hotel's retail shopping area offers a range of stores from clothing, computer services, beauty, homemade ice cream, Starbuck's Coffee, and Community Bank to shoe shine services and more! The beautiful DHL Children's Park is a great place for the youngsters to play. Find out more about the Dragon Hill Lodge and its list of services at www.dragonhilllodge.com.

Reservations are accepted 24 hours a day. You can also make your reservations online at: www.dragonhilllodge.com . You can e-mail reservation requests to reservations@dhl.korea.army.mil, or write Dragon Hill Lodge, Reservations Dept. Unit 15335, APO, AP, 96205-0427. Phone/Fax:

From US: 011-822-7918-2222, Fax: 011-822-790-1576

From Korea: Commercial 790-0016, Fax: 790-1576

From Korea: DSN 738-2222



DRAGON HILL LODGE

DRIVER'S LICENSE - There are various categories of driver's licenses in Korea, but most personnel will need only a USFK license. All applicants are required to take a written test regarding Korean traffic rules at the Driver's Testing Office at the ACS Building (Bldg 4106, behind the DHL.) Call DSN 738-5568 for information on operational hours. The guide is also available online through the 8th Army website (<http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/> - click on the SAFETY link, choose Motor Vehicle Safety, and then scroll down to find the link). If you drive in Korea, even on military installations, you must have a USFK license within 30 days of arrival.

Your USFK license, along with a valid stateside license, will allow you to drive throughout Korea.

E

EMBASSY INFORMATION- Most countries maintain an embassy or consulate in Seoul. They can be very helpful in providing you with travel information for their country and will assist in any Visa arrangements if you are not traveling with a group that is handling details for you. Check with the Yongsan library or the American Embassy (Phone DSN 721-4114, Commercial: 02-397-4114/4603) for any current telephone numbers or addresses you may need. The embassies can also tell you of any necessary vaccinations/immunizations required for travel in their country. The Help Book (post phone book) has the phone numbers for Embassies from other countries as well as the U.S. The U.S. Embassy has a helpful website: www.asktheconsul.org or www.useembassy.state.gov/seoul .

EMERGENCIES - In the event of an emergency, critical accident, illness, or death in a service member's or spouse's family, the nearest Red Cross should be called at once. The Red Cross is equipped to verify the situation and relay an emergency message, if necessary, to the proper military authorities. It is then up to the commanding officer to decide whether or not to grant leave. You can contact the Yongsan Area Red Cross at 738-3670. (Also see American Red Cross under COMMUNITY SERVICES).

EMPLOYMENT - For spouses desiring to work, there are limited jobs available on post; it may take some time and patience to find one. With determination, and a lot of networking, it can be done. Full-time or part-time jobs are listed through the Seoul Civilian Personnel Office (CPO) and are advertised in their Weekly Bulletin. ACS has a Family Member Employment office, with an excellent staff, which can assist you in your job search, and in filling out the Form SF171 for GS positions. They are located in the ACS Building (Bldg 4106). Telephone 738-8977. There is also a Hannam Village outreach center at 723-8293. Spouse Employment and Education Seminars are held semiannually. Look for banners and advertisements in the Morning Calm (weekly newspaper) regarding the next planned seminar. This website can provide more information: Civilian Human Resources Agency at cpoc-www.korea.army.mil. For government service employment, try US Army Civilian Personnel Online at cpol.army.mil.

Teachers are always needed. If you want to teach at the Seoul American Elementary, Middle, or High Schools, either full-time or on a substitute basis, ask at the main office of the school where you want to work. Teaching positions are also available at the private schools located in Seoul; you can either write the schools directly or contact them as soon as you arrive in Korea. They often will advertise in The Morning Calm or on bulletin boards located throughout Yongsan at the Commissary, PX, Townhouse, etc.

It is suggested that you review any contracts carefully with the ACS Employment Readiness staff (738-8977) before accepting any position. Also, even though you will have 30 days to obtain a SOFA stamp, you must have it in your possession before you apply for a job.

For youth, the Summer Youth Employment Program (Summer Hire) is available for DOD military and civilian family members who are full-time students between the ages of 14 and 22. Although many of the jobs are general office helpers, there are also a variety of specialized areas where specific skills and backgrounds are required. Parents and students are reminded that one requirement to be eligible for summer employment with USFK activities is to possess a personal Social Security Number (SSN). Parents whose children are outside of Korea should ensure that their children obtain an SSN before traveling to Korea if they wish to work here during the summer. Students must also have proof of full-time student status in the States. There is also a winter-hire program for students ages 16-22. This is designed for after school and weekend work. (For youth or spouses planning to work on the economy, check with the American Embassy (www.asktheconsul.org) before coming to see what type of visa is needed). For more information, check with the Student Hire Office at ACS (738-8977). There are always numerous babysitting opportunities for teenagers. Red Cross Babysitting Certification can be done at the Moyer Recreation Center.

Informative Websites:

Military spouse employment: www.milspouse.org

DoD/Monster.com spouse employment initiative: www.military.com/spouse

ENTERTAINMENT and ARTS - Ever wonder what the thriving city of Seoul could offer you? Seoul has all of the trappings of a metropolitan hub similar to that of New York City or Los Angeles. In addition to the many offerings on post, outside the gates there are numerous night-clubs, gambling casinos, and karaoke bars. If you love the performing arts, Seoul has many venues for drama, opera, ballet, and musical concerts. From the Sejong Museum of Fine Arts and Cultural Center to the Seoul Arts Center, you will find a wide variety of programs to intrigue and delight. There are also many museums that offer a variety of venues. Be sure to stop at any visitor information booth in Seoul and pick up the Seoul Metropolitan Government Visitors Guide Book. Other publications with good information are **KScene Magazine** (was known as *Seoul Classified*) and *Seoul Magazine*. A great website is www.seoulselection.com. The list of things to see and do is virtually endless but be aware of several points:

- Events normally cost a bit more in Seoul than they do stateside. Concert tickets can be as much as \$150 to \$200.
- The USO and MWR frequently offer discount tickets, so always check with them first before you buy.
- Most, but not all, theatrical productions are done in Korean. You may want to clarify what language the show will be performed in so that you will not be disappointed or surprised with the content of the program. Some shows do offer English translation on a stage-side marquee.
- Alcohol costs MUCH more on the Korean economy than it does in American facilities. Be aware of the prices before you order.
- Many nightclubs welcome and encourage foreigners, but some do not. If you find yourself in what seems to be a hostile environment, promptly leave. There also are some establishments which are off limits to military personnel. Check with the MP station or garrison headquarters for a listing.

EXPRESS BUS TERMINAL (BANPO) - To Westerners, the huge Express Bus Terminal just south of the Han River is sometimes called the Banpo. This bus terminal is the hub of all long distance bus traffic in the Republic of Korea. It is busy on a normal day and jammed beyond belief on Korean holidays. It also contains several floors of restaurants and interesting, inexpensive shops. Even if you're not planning a bus trip, the bus terminal is an interesting place to visit; particularly the fresh flower markets in the basement and 2nd floors. Christmas items are available seasonally. Take the subway to the Express Bus Terminal Station (Line 3 or 7, exit 1).

F

FIREWOOD - While 160 family housing units on south Post presently have fireplaces, they are inoperable. Area II officials sealed off all fireplaces due to inadequate inspection and safety concerns. The Four Seasons sells outdoor fireplaces, mainly for show but a fun way to get together with your neighbors. If you are bringing an outdoor grill or have a barbeque of some kind, you can obtain wood from the Four Seasons shop or charcoal from the Commissary. You will find this, in the event of a summer power outage, to be a fun way to pass a few hours. You can purchase wood from a Korean woodcutter (he will deliver to your door), or you can usually order wood from BURT Self-Help Center on South Post, providing you live on post. The wood from Self Help is provided by a Korean contractor, so there are fees involved. Check with Self Help for current details. Call 736-7818. For people living off post, you can order wood from a Korean woodcutter. If you have

a fireplace in your apartment/villa/house, consult with your landlord for wood sources.

FITNESS CENTERS - There are several fitness centers located on post and at Hannam Village. All are open seven days per week, but hours vary (see below). Each center is open to all USFK ID cardholders. Use of the facilities is free of charge with the exception of The Point, a state-of-the-art fitness center located in the Dragon Hill Lodge. Lengthy waiting lists often exist for memberships at The Point. For information on monthly membership fees contact The Point at 738-2222 ext.6240. Other fitness centers at Yongsan and Hannam offer a wide range of services including Nautilus equipment, separate free-weight rooms, multipurpose rooms for instructional classes such as aerobics, and locker rooms with saunas.

Collier Field House (South Post Bldg 5200)	736-4588
Trent Gym (adult Tae Kwon Do classes held here) (Main Post Bldg 1496)	724-8466
Main Post Mini Gym (Bldg S-2609) (racquetball and basketball courts)	724-7255
K-16 Gym (Bldg S-158)	741-6316
Hannam Village Gym (Bldg 6147)	723-6849
Middle School Youth Center- Across from SAS and Central Registration. Holds all youth basketball games as well as martial arts programs.	

FLOWERS AND PLANTS - If you would rather purchase flowers and plants on-post, the Grace Flower Shop has a variety of fresh flowers and is conveniently located in the Main Post Mini Mall (Four Seasons) from 10-7 everyday. Call 723-2076. Also, a Flower Shop called Bloss-

soms is located in the Dragon Hill Lodge 738-2222 (ext 6816). You will meet the greatest lady here - Ms. Moon. Operating hours are everyday 1000 - 1900. Ms. Moon can accept special orders and can make arrangements based on a picture you provide if you'd like. She also has many silk flowers from which to choose. For those living in government quarters, annual flowers and shrubs are available seasonally from Self Help. These are free of charge, but there is usually a limit on the quantities given per unit.

FORCE PROTECTION/ DEMONSTRATIONS - Korea remains a relatively safe location, however, in light of recent world events, it is important you are aware of the measures taken to ensure safety during your tour of duty. Yongsan, Osan, and other U.S. military installations are secure facilities. No one is allowed access to the post without a valid ID card. ID cards must be physically handed to the guards so they are able to view both sides. In addition, only vehicles with proper registration decals will be allowed access to the post. Both visitors and vehicles can be escorted onto the post by authorized ID card holders (see VISITORS).

As with all military installations, Yongsan operates security procedures based upon levels of Force Protection (FP CON). FP CON levels change according to the level of threat. Force Protection levels range from FP CON Alpha (lowest threat) to FP CON Delta (highest threat). The current FP CON level will generally be posted at the installation gates. You can also keep up to date on present and future events which may affect the FP CON by logging onto USFK.org – USFK Force Protection site. For those living on post, the commander's channel is another good source of information for the latest updates.

Other safety concerns you should be aware of are the demonstrations periodically held throughout the peninsula. Protesters demonstrate for

a variety of reasons to include opposition to the U.S. military presence in Korea. These demonstrations are sometimes held just outside the Yongsan gates. Warnings are issued by military officials on the post channel, radio station 102.7FM and 1530AM and the Civil Disturbance hotline (phone number 723-0115). Korean National Police are always present at these demonstrations to provide additional security.

Finally, as with any other large metropolitan city, you should practice common sense when venturing out. The buddy system is highly encouraged and at times is mandatory. Curfews in Korea for US servicemen and dependents is 12 midnight to 5AM on weekdays, 1AM to 5AM on weekends. The buddy system is strongly advised whenever venturing off-post for military members and dependents of legal age. The curfew for minor dependents is 10PM to 5AM weekdays and 12 midnight to 5AM on weekends.

FURNITURE STORE - The AAFES Furniture Store, on South Post next to the Chosun Gift Shop, carries a variety of US furniture such as living room, dining room, and bedroom furniture, as well as appliances and bound carpeting.

G

GALLERY – (AAFES Concessionaries) The Gallery is a great place to get items from local vendors on post. It is located by the Library on Main Post Bldg 2209, 723-7635. Some of the items sold here include, art, blankets, lacquer ware, pottery, clothing, embroidery, shoe shop and repair, furniture, jewelry, leather goods and so much more. All pricing is in dollars. You can ship packages from the FedEx desk. There is even a ‘pack and wrap’ located here to help you get your items ready to mail. The Main Post Office is conveniently located right next door!

GASOLINE - Always try to get your gas on post; it is considerably cheaper than on the economy. You must show your ID card and Ration Control Plate before you pump your gas. Korean gas is measured and priced in LITERS (and it’s expensive), so make sure you have the proper amount of Korean won with you before having your vehicle filled. The AAFES Gas Station (located near Gate 12 and Itaewon Acres) is open M-F 7AM - 7PM and Sat-Sun 8AM - 7PM. 738-7649. You can purchase drinks and some auto needs (oil and wiper fluid, for example) in the small building on site. Most automotive items are located at Camp Kim auto repair shop, behind the USO.

GRILLS AND PROPANE - Propane tanks (even purged) are no longer allowed to be shipped with your household goods. The Four Seasons (Main Post Mini Mall), carries gas grills and propane tanks. There is a good supply during summer months. Check with a sales associate about purchasing propane, as policies have changed regularly in recent years. They have maps for where in town to get the tanks filled. Most picnic areas near the various housing complexes have charcoal grills that can be used as well.

Directions to the Propane Refill Station: (Not associated with the Post or AAFES)

Drive out Gate 1, turning right, and drive past Camp Kim. Turn left at the first traffic light and go under the over-pass. Turn left at next traffic light. The propane station will be about 150 meters on the right; look for a truck with propane tanks.

GOLF - The Sung Nam Golf Course and Driving Range features an 18-hole par 72 course. The clubhouse has a dining room, bar with deli-type items and pro shop. You will find on-course snack bars and refreshment stands. They also have practice putting greens, a driving range, and club facilities complete with daily use lockers, club storage, showers, hot tubs, and rental clubs and power carts. The AAFES Four Seasons Store, with a variety of golf equipment, is located in the Main Post Mini Mall. Buses to Sung Nam leave from Commiskey's' parking lot. For tee times, annual memberships and bus schedules, call 736-3483/3490.

GOLF DRIVING RANGE - (Yongsan Sports Complex) This golf driving range is easily seen on post, next to Commiskey's. You can't miss the big green netting! This is a fun place to practice your swing. Call 738-4190 for more information.

GUIDEBOOKS - A good guidebook is essential to getting around Seoul and Korea. For detailed information on what to do, how to get there by subway, the cost and operating hours of most everything in Seoul, the Korean Visitor's Guide published by the Seoul Metropolitan Government Tourism Promotion Division contains the most complete information. To get a copy, stop at any Korean Information Booth located around the city, usually near subway entrances. The closest Information Booth is located in Itaewon. The USO is another great place to get helpful guide books, maps, and monthly magazines featur-

ing what to do in Seoul. The AAFES PX has a variety of other travel guides and maps. A listing of recommended books is located at the end of this book.

H

HOUSEHOLD HELP - Many people choose to hire household help during their tour in Korea. The best way to find a reliable person is from your neighbors. Occasionally you can “inherit” household help from departing co-workers or neighbors.

Pay rates vary slightly depending on the duties performed. Full-time housekeepers are usually paid at a weekly rate. Daily housekeepers are paid from \$50-\$70 per day. Some want payment in won, others in dollars; some want to be paid weekly, others prefer a lump sum once or twice a month. Housemen are usually paid \$40-\$60 per day and work both inside and outside the house doing heavier work such as windows, floors, gardening, car cleaning, etc. Most want to work every week. It is customary for all hired help to receive a bonus at Chusok (Korean Thanksgiving), Christmas, and/or Lunar New Year. If you are not sure what would be the correct amount, ask friends or neighbors. It is also up to each person to decide whether your household help will get American or Korean holidays off and whether they are paid holidays. You may want to talk with other families employing the same person so all of you are consistent.

Although most household help already have post passes, it may be necessary for you to assist yours in obtaining one unless you plan to pick them up each time at one of the gates. Pass renewals are re-

quired yearly, and expired passes should be collected from household help and returned to the Pass and ID Office so that they do not fall into the wrong hands.

Please contact the base command for all rules and regulations concerning the hiring of babysitters or household help who may not be U.S. or Korean National citizens. There are strict fines (up to \$10,000 US dollars) from the Korean Government for those that do so illegally.

HOME REPAIRS/SELF HELP - The self-help facility known as Burt's (Building Utility Repair Team) Self Help Center is located in Bldg 5274 on South Post next to the Quartermaster laundry by Gate 17. They stock all of the unique items needed to maintain your post quarters (fluorescent tubes, glass light fixtures, kitchen drain baskets, etc), and they have a full range of hand tools and power equipment to check out for short time periods. For do-it-yourself landscapers and interior decorators, Burt's also carries plants (at certain times of the year) and a variety of interior decorating supplies. Call 736-7817 for hours and more information. NOTE: Self Help is NOT authorized to issue supplies to personnel living off post. Also, an orientation class is required before using Self Help.

HOTELS - As mentioned earlier, most incoming military personnel stay at the Dragon Hill Lodge (<http://www.dragonhilllodge.com>) on South Post. If for some reason you have to look for accommodations on the economy, Seoul has a wide variety of hotels with varying prices. You can request the Hotel Referral List from the Dragon Hill Lodge Guest Services Desk. To make reservations at hotels without DSN access, you can use pay phones in the lobby of the Dragon Hill Lodge. The reservations department at the Dragon Hill Lodge can assist you in reserving rooms at the Lotte Hotel, plus those listed directly below. To make reservations at any of the following hotels from the U.S., first dial: 011-82-2- and then the commercial number listed:

- Shilla, call 2230-3310
- JW Marriott, call 6282-6282
- Ritz-Carlton, call 3451-8114

Hotels in the Yongsan Area:

- Crown Hotel, call 02-797-4111, DSN 723-7218
- Hamilton Hotel, call 02-794-0171
- Capital Hotel, call 02-792-1122, DSN 723-8661

Billeting On Post:

- Walker Center, free, 736-1048
- Religious Center, call 723-7314
- US Embassy Association Suites (Bldg. 8105), call 02-397-4487 or 738-6124

Most of the above-mentioned hotels offer military rates to U.S. service members and their families.

Once you have become accustomed to the culture in Korea, you might want to try staying in a Korean Inn or “yeogwan.” The cost of these inns range from 12,000 - 25,000 won per night, depending on whether you want a western-styled bed and bath or “Korean style.” This is definitely an experience that the adventurer will enjoy! For ideas about other hotels in Seoul, or for your travel needs in other parts of Korea, here are some websites that can help you search Korea hotels:

- Korea Hotel Guide: <http://www.hotelguide.co.kr/>
- E Korea Hotels: <http://www.ekoreahotels.com/>
- Korea Hotels.net: <http://www.koreahotels.net/>

Note: Keep in mind that some of the nicer hotel chains (Grand Hyatt Seoul and many others) offer great restaurants and shopping so don't be afraid to check those out (even if you are not staying you can have the opportunity to enjoy world class cuisine). Being in a major city like Seoul has wonderful advantages.

U.S. EMBASSY ASSOCIATION – The US Embassy Association (up the hill from Burger King) is here not only for the American Embassy community, but also for military members and civilians assigned and visiting Area II. The US Embassy Association (USEA) can accommodate many of your needs. In the area of lodging, USEA offers a comfortable and quiet TDY suite at a low rate on Yongsan Garrison. TDY suite guestrooms contain a queen size bed, sitting room, kitchenette, full bath, cable TV, and DSN telephone and internet service. Also offered are Event Hall facility rentals for official functions or private parties, either formal or casual. Several options are available, which are guaranteed to meet the needs of your meetings and special events. A Lending Locker is available in which you can rent a variety of items – chafing dishes, tables, chairs, serving trays, and much more. USEA logo items are available for sale in our main office. USEA vendors include the Business Center, Quiznos, and Starbucks.

For assistance regarding any of their services please contact them at:

From U.S.: 011-82-2-7918-6124

From Korea: Commercial 02-397-4487, Fax 796-9488

From Korea: DSN 738-6124

Normal business hours are Monday through Friday 8:30AM – 5PM. USEA is closed for all Korean and American holidays. They are located on South Post building 8105 (next to Starbucks) Find out more about the U.S. Embassy Association at www.useaseoul.com.

HOUSING -Where you will live after your arrival in Korea is undoubtedly one of your largest concerns. The Housing Office will do everything they can to make your transition into your new home as smooth as

possible. Whether you are accompanied or unaccompanied, the one stop Housing Office will take care of all your Housing needs to include Temporary Housing Allowance (TLA), which you may be authorized prior to moving into your permanent residence. All service members, regardless of Branch of Service or status, need to in-process with the Housing Office within 48 hours of arrival or completion of in-processing with 1RC. All DOD Civilians eligible for a Living Quarters Allowance (LQA) are required to in-process with the Housing Office as well. All Civilians, unless designated as Key & Essential, are required to live in economy quarters.

Your servicing Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) will advise you as to your Temporary Quarters Subsistence Entitlement (TQSE) and also LQA entitlements.

UNACCOMPANIED PERSONNEL HOUSING (UPH) - Unaccompanied personnel of all ranks and branches of service are normally housed in UPH on the installation. Personnel in the pay grade of E-4 and below will reside in the barracks. Personnel in the pay grade of E-5 and E-6 may reside in the barracks if adequate space and privacy criteria is met, or they will reside in Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ). Service members in the ranks of SFC and above and unaccompanied officer personnel will be assigned Senior Enlisted Bachelor Quarters (SEBQ) or Bachelor Officer Quarters (BOQ).

Only in the event of adequate quarters not being available will an unaccompanied service member be authorized to reside off-post. Service members should keep in mind that while all UPH meet or exceed the adequacy criteria for square footage, they may not be able to accommodate a full weight allowance of HHGs. Full furnishing support is available in all UPH assets. For additional information on Unaccompanied Housing please call 738-8168.

ACCOMPANIED HOUSING ON POST – ARMY FAMILY HOUSING (AFH)

Command sponsored accompanied personnel and Key & Essential Civilians are housed on-post in AFH. Your PCS travel orders will normally state concurrent travel to government quarters and indicate bedroom size and housing area for where your quarters will be located. Upon arrival at the Housing Office you will be briefed by a counselor who will place your name on the appropriate waiting list. The counselor will brief you on projected quarters availability and Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) or TQSE authorizations. Normally quarters are available within two weeks of your arrival or less.

Your bedroom requirement is determined by the size of your family. Couples with no children and families (either married couples or single parents) with one child receive a two bedroom unit. Families with two children are authorized a three bedroom unit and those with three or more children qualify for a four or five bedroom unit.

If quarters are not projected to be available for you within 60 days of your arrival, or if you were granted concurrent travel to economy quarters, you may be authorized to reside off-post and receive Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA). Accompanied service members of all ranks and branches of service and DOD civilians are strongly advised not to seek economy quarters prior to in-processing with the Housing Office.

If you are authorized to reside off-post and elect to do so, the Housing Services Branch will assist you in locating adequate and affordable economy housing. The Counselor will provide you with information concerning housing allowances, utilities, moving in expenses, security deposits, automatic rent payment options, and a host of other need-to-know information. All military and civilian personnel must process their lease agreement with the Housing Services Office and are strongly encouraged to attend the Off-Post Housing Briefing prior to entering into a lease agreement.

There are five main AFH areas on Yongsan which are:

South Post Government Owned Units:

This Housing area consists of 262 single dwelling units, duplexes, and quad-plexus. Officers in the grade of O-6 and above and Battalion Commanders reside in designated units located between Seoul American Elementary School, the Hospital, and Gate 19. Command Sergeant Majors reside in designated units located behind Burke Towers and Eagle Grove. Sergeant Majors are eligible for quarters located in this area as well if available, and in quad-plexus. With the exception of quads, these units are all one-story and primarily consist of duplexes. These units consist of two, three, four, and five bedroom homes. Each unit has central heating and air conditioning, all major appliances (including built in dishwasher), mini-blinds on all windows, and outdoor storage areas. The majority of these homes have linoleum floor tiles. Personnel residing in these units are authorized two domestic pets. Residents are responsible for the care, maintenance, and clean-up of their pets in accordance with Post policies. Each unit is provided one designated parking space but additional parking space and visitor parking is normally available.

Koelsch Grove (Eagle Grove), Krzyzowski Hill (Iteawon Acres) and Loring Village (Black Hawk Village):

These three housing areas consist of 300 multi-family townhouse style units. The units consist of two, three and four bedroom homes. The four bedroom units are two stories and have ground floor access. The two and three bedroom units are either one story with ground floor access or two stories with second floor entrances. They are designated for field grade officers (O-4/O-5 and WO-4/5). The complexes are located in different areas of Yongsan South Post. The units have central air conditioning and heating, all major appliances (including built

in dishwashers), and come furnished with mini-blinds on all windows. Each unit has one exterior storage area; however, storage space in all units is limited. The units have linoleum floor tiles. Personnel residing in these areas are authorized up to two domestic pets. Residents are responsible for the care and control of their pets at all times and in accordance with Post policies. There is one designated parking space for each unit and limited visitor parking.

Burke Towers:

This modern, state of the art Field Grade apartment complex opened on 1 June 2004. The complex consists of two, five story mid-rise towers containing 30 units each or a total of 60 units. They consist of forty 3-bedroom units; 18 four-bedroom units and 2 five-bedroom units. Each unit has a spacious, open floor plan, sliding glass doors with vertical blinds opening to a balcony, ceiling fans in each room, a linen closet and separate laundry room containing a full size washer and dryer and utility sink, Pergo no wax wood floors and ceramic flooring in kitchen and baths, Corian kitchen and bathroom countertops, breakfast bar (bar stool size counter), mini-blinds, central heating and air conditioning, ample closets, fire suppression and alarm system, four telephone, cable and internet ready hook ups, door bell intercom system and all major appliances including built in dishwasher. Burke Towers is conveniently located near the South Post shopping district (food court, AAFES shops, movie theater, Chosun Gift Shop, Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop, and numerous other services and activities). Children will be within minutes of the schools and the youth soccer field is right across the street in front of the Towers. The complex features a BBQ area, tot lot, playground and basketball court. Handicapped parking is available near the north tower. There are 6 elevators per building which conveniently go down to the basement where the underground parking lot is located as well as 6 x 6 feet individually assigned storage areas (some slightly larger). Each apartment has an assigned parking

space with visitor and overflow parking available in the middle parking garage. Burke Towers is a “No Pet” Housing area and there are no exceptions. For additional information on Burke Towers please contact 738-3211.

Hannam Village:

HV is located about 2 miles from Yongsan Garrison. Built in 1982, it is composed entirely of apartments (low and high rise buildings). Hannam Village is designated for Command Grade Officers (O-1 thru O-3) and enlisted personnel (E-8 and below). Hannam Village has its own PX Annex, a small commissary, chapel, fitness center, swimming pool, and other recreational facilities. All apartments have a free standing or split A/C unit in each room and radiator heat with heat covers. The apartments have linoleum floor tiles, new energy efficient windows, and sliding glass doors leading to a balcony. Hannam Village is a “No Pet” Housing Area and there are no exceptions. For additional information on Hannam Village please call 723-8950.

Housing Off-Post:

Housing on the economy is plentiful and offers a wide variety of styles to include high rise apartments, villas, duplexes, and single dwelling units. If you are eligible to reside off post due to non-availability of adequate government quarters, or if you are a DOD civilian, you will be issued a statement of non-availability (SNA) from the Housing Office. Once you receive an SNA you will be required to attend an Off-Post Housing Briefing. During this tri-weekly briefing, you will be provided with a myriad of information for leasing on the economy, security checklist, housing allowance entitlements, realtor information, utility rates, and other need-to-know information. Once you choose your off-post unit, the Housing Office will assist you with all contract negotiations. **DO NOT ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE HOUSING OFFICE.** For more information please call 738-3489.

IMMUNIZATIONS – The table below lists all the necessary vaccinations by your status. It is a good idea to check with your medical officer/ family doctor/ the DODEA school nurse at Seoul American School for recent updates on needed immunizations.

M=mandatory, R=recommended, HR=recommended only for persons at high risk, A=available, N/A=not available

	Active Duty	KATUSA	EEC (US)	MEC (KN)	DOD Civilians & DODDS	Family Members
Anthrax	M	N/A	M	N/A	A	A*
Smallpox	M	N/A	M	N/A	A	A**
Hepatitis A	M	M	R	R	A	A
Hepatitis B	M	HR	R	R	HR	HR
Influenza	M	M	R	R	R	HR
Measles	M	M	R	R	R	R
Meningitis	Required for all Military , Civilian Personnel and Dependents over the age of 11.					
Mumps	M	M	R	R	R	R
Rubella	M	M	R	R	R	R
Polio	M	M	R	R	R	R
Tetanus	M	M	M	M	R	R
Diphtheria	M	M	M	M	R	R
Typhoid	M	M	R	R	A	A
Japanese Encephalitis	A	A	A	A	A	A
Varicella	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR

Hemophilus influenzae type b -----R for < 2 y.o.

Pneumococcal -----23-valent R for > 65 y.o.

7-valent R for young children

* Anthrax vaccination is available for family members 18 to 65 years of age. For active duty service members, at least 3 shot are required prior to coming to Korea.

** Smallpox vaccination is available for family members age 18 and older. Active duty service members should receive this vaccination prior to coming to Korea.

Tuberculosis is a significant health threat on the Korean peninsula. Each year about 30,000 cases of active TB are reported. To protect against this disease, have a PPD test prior to coming to Korea, every year while in Korea, and just prior to leaving Korea. This is a mandatory requirement for Active Duty service members and highly recommended for all others. DODDS and Child and Youth Services require proof of PPD testing within 1 year for registration.

Chemoprophylaxis for malaria is not required for the Korean peninsula. Soldiers training north of Seoul should utilize personal protective measures to prevent insect bites. Bed nets are highly recommended for all areas to prevent insect bites.

KATUSA: Korean Augmentation to United States Army

EEC(US): US Emergency Essential Civilian

MEC(KN): Korean Mission Essential Civilian

DoD: Department of Defense

DODDS: Department of Defense Dependents School employees

PPD: Purified Protein Derivative – a test for tuberculosis infection

If you plan to travel outside Korea, and even if you have received all necessary immunizations prior to your arrival in country, it is strongly recommended that you check with the Clinical Preventive Medicine Service (PM) for current requirements in other countries. PM is located at Building 5447, on Yongsan South Post, just inside Gate 52, on the corner by the Commissary. For more information, call 736-3025. Websites for more information about immunizations and traveler's health:

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Traveler's Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>
- World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/en/>

INSURANCE - The two types of insurance most commonly required by service members and their families in Korea are automobile insurance and household goods or personal effects insurance. Automobile liability insurance is mandatory to register a motor vehicle with the Provost Marshall. Many service members also choose to carry a “renter’s policy” to cover their personal property against fire and theft. When purchasing insurance, you should consider the financial security of the insurance company, their ability to pay your claim, the serviceability of the policy, whether there is a local service representative, and whether the coverage protects you from personal loss in case of an accident or other misfortune. Insurance is available locally or through companies in the U.S. The insurance company you do business with in the U.S. may also provide coverage in Korea. You should confirm this prior to departing the U.S. There are also affordable, reputable companies in Korea who will provide coverage to Americans serving in Korea.

INTERNET ACCESS - Access to the internet is readily available during your stay in Korea. There are several choices for those living either on or off post. You can connect to the internet via your DSN or commercial telephone line. Check with the Telephone office, Korea Telecom 738-6900 on the 2nd floor of the ACS Building to find out more. Where you live may determine what service you will be using. (See TELEPHONE for more information on DSN vs. commercial lines).

INTERNET CAFE - three Cyber Cafés are located on Yongsan.

Dragon Hill Lodge 738-2222 ext. 6826

Digital Business Center (Embassy) 02-792-6655

Digital Business Center (Moyer CAC) 723-7023/7030

Usage rates are determined on a sliding scale, based on amount of hours purchased.

INTERNET SHOPPING – Please see the SHOPPING AND RESTAURANTS section of this book.

L

LANGUAGE - There are Korean and English language classes offered periodically through ACS and the USAG-Yongsan. These classes are usually free of charge (a small fee may apply for workbooks). Korean classes will assist you in mastering enough Korean to get around the country. The Koreans appreciate the fact you are trying to learn their language and will often offer assistance. Korean I Language Classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 1730-1830 in the ACS building; English classes are offered Monday and Wednesday. Call ACS for more info 738-7505. Classes are advertised in Yongsan's weekly newspaper 'The Morning Calm'.

There are also free online language classes available thru AKO.

1. Login to AKO (<https://www.us.army.mil>)
2. Click on My Education under Self Service Tab
3. Click on Army e-Learning and click New User
4. Click on Register for Army e-Learning at:
(<https://www.atrrs.army.mil/chaannels/elearning/SmartForce>)
5. Register for Army e-Learning.
6. Click on <https://usarmy.skillport.com/>
7. Enter the required information.

You will be provided with an additional ID and password via email to access the Skillport website.

This information will grant you access to the Rosetta Stone Language courses at: <https://usarmy.skillport.com/>

1. Click on Access Courses Here.
2. After clicking on Rosetta Stone Courses, select the language you

want to study by clicking on the course title.

The PX and the bookstore at the Dragon Hill Lodge also maintain a selection of books on learning the Korean language, many of which come with audiotapes. The University of Maryland campus at Yongsan offers university-level Korean classes. For more information call the Yongsan field representative at: DSN 723- 4300/723-4294/723-4295.

Read about their Korean Studies program on their website at:

<https://www.asia.umuc.edu/>.

LAUNDRY FACILITIES - The Quartermaster Laundry Plant provides laundry and dry cleaning services for all U.S. ID cardholders. QM pick-up point #1, Bldg: 5255 behind Burt's Self-Help Center offers three-day regular or one-day special service. All clothing is cleaned by stateside standards and cleaning compounds are procured from the States. For more information, call 736-4397/4395. Hours: Monday-Friday 0730-1800 and Saturday 0900-1300. Note: quarter master will sew on unit patches free of cost when you arrive on Peninsula, must show PCS orders. A 24-hour AAFES launderette is located in Bldg: 4220 near the South Post Mini-mall. AAFES also provides other dry-cleaning and laundry services on both Main and South Post and in Hannam Village.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE – The Legal Assistance Office is there to help with various legal matters including Powers of Attorney, notarization services, marriage application review, immigration and naturalization services, and wills. Please call to get details of times because some services are only offered on certain days. The staff is friendly and very efficient. Call 738-6841 for more information.

LIBRARY SERVICES – The Yongsan Library, located in building 2215 on Main Post, is the focal point of library services for Area II and for all community recreation libraries in Korea. It functions as the Main Post

Library for HQs, Eighth U. S. Army and USAG-Yongsan. The Command Reference Center, located in the library, provides in-depth reference and research service to all USFK libraries in Korea. It also serves as the clearinghouse for all EUSA interlibrary loans. More than 12,000 registered borrowers use the Yongsan Library. Not all of them come to read books. Music lovers will find audiocassettes (including some books on tape), and there are more than 2,500 videos available for circulation. Whether you want to read a magazine, a stateside newspaper, or use the research computers in conjunction with an Education Center class, the library has much to offer. Story-time programs for preschoolers are also available at both the Main and Hannam Village Libraries.

□ Main Post Library

Location: Building 2215

Hours: Monday-Friday 0900-2200

Saturday-Sunday 0900-2000

Phone: 723-7380/6862

□ Hannam Village Library

Location: Building 6150

Hours: Sunday-Tuesday 1100-1900

□ Wednesday-Saturday 1100-2000

Phone: 723-3348

M

MARS STATION- MARS (Military Amateur Radio Service) offers free “airgrams” to the United States. Volunteer short wave operators deliver these messages in the United States. If you would like to send a MARS Gram, forms are available at the following MARS stations.

- ☐ South Post Mini Mall
- ☐ PX lobby on Main Post
- ☐ Main Post Office in the lobby on the left
- ☐ Camp Coiner Shoppette

For more information on MARS, call 725-6277.

MILITARY POLICE – The Military Police are located at Bldg.#1397 and can be reached at 724-3004/3005/6695 24 hours daily. The Provost Marshal’s Administrative Office phone is 724-4281. The Provost Marshal’s Office (PMO) has many phone numbers that are listed in the *HELP Phone Book* you can get at ACS.

MEDICAL SERVICES

On Post The 121st Combat Support Hospital is located on Yongsan South Post near Gate 17. It provides medical care to active duty, family members, and retirees. Services are also provided to DoD employees, contractors and family members on a space available basis and who are paying-patients. Be sure to pick up the 121 Phone Book. This is a great resource that gives you quick references of all the different clinics and their phone numbers. The 121st Combat Support Hospital provides inpatient services, intensive care services and the following specialty services:

M

Medical specialty services:

- Audiology
- Internal Medicine
- Orthopedics
- Podiatry
- OB/GYN
- Pediatrics
- Family Practice
- General Surgery
- Physical & Occupational Therapy
- Dermatology
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- EENT
- Ophthalmology
- Optometry
- EFMP
- Mental Health Services
- Nutrition Care

Yongsan Health Clinic on Yongsan Main Post provides sick call and physical exams for active duty personnel ranks E-1 through O-5. The 121st is also the referral hospital for all other military facilities in Korea. For hospital information or appointments, call 737-CARE (2273). Other medical related items and services offered to family members:

- TRICARE is the Department of Defense Health Care Program. Enrollment forms are available at all military treatment facilities and at the TRICARE Service Center next to the 121st Hospital. For more information, please call 736-8558 or 736-7238. (More information on TRICARE is detailed in the following pages).
- Mental Health Clinic on the first floor of the 121st offers individual

and family counseling, psychological, psychiatric and social work services. Call 737-5508 for more information.

- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Overseas is a program designed to provide nutritious food, tips on how to prepare a balanced meal, nutrition and health screening, and access to resources to lead a healthier life. The program provides benefits to eligible women who are pregnant and after they deliver their babies for at least six months and possibly up to one year. Eligible children may participate up to age five. For more information and to find out if you are eligible, call 736-6074 or 736-6106. Located on South Post, Bldg 5210, up the road from Collier Field House going towards Gate 17.
- OPTICAL - Frames, lenses or complete pairs of eyeglasses can be purchased at a reasonable price from the Optical Shop in the Gallery on Main Post, at the Dragon Hill Lodge, or in Itaewon. You can make an appointment to have your eyes examined by calling the Optometry Clinic on Main Post at 725-3601/5432. No contact lens fittings are done at the hospital, so bring a valid contact lens prescription and a 6-month to a 1-year supply of lenses with you. You can reorder contacts at the Optical Shop with a valid contact lens prescription, on the Korean economy or over the internet.

Off Post For individuals who require medical care off post, there are several doctors and clinics that service the foreign community. In addition, the 18th MEDCOM currently maintains partnerships with nineteen state-of-the-art Korean hospitals. These hospitals feature American educated and trained specialists, as well as English-speaking staff members to assist American personnel, and offer a wide array of services to those serving throughout the Korean peninsula.

- Seoul Help Center for Foreigners. English Help Line: 02-797 8212 (09:30-12:30 & 14:00-17:00 weekdays).
24-Hour English Medical Referral Service:
010-4769 8212 / 010-8750 8212. Emergency: 119

Seoul Help Center: 31 Taepyeongno 1-ga, Jung-gu,
Seoul 100-744, Korea
Tel: 02-731-6800, Fax: 02-731-6803 (09:00-18:00 weekdays).

Some helpful websites:

www.seoul.amedd.army.mil: 18th MEDCOM Website

www.embracingwomenhealth.com: Women's Health Issues

www.Drugstore.com

TRICARE PACIFIC TRICARE is the health care program for active duty members, active duty family members, eligible retirees, retiree family members, and eligible survivors of all uniformed services. TRICARE is designed to assure access to quality health care, control health care costs, and improve medical readiness. The only program options available within the ROK are TRICARE Prime, Standard and TRICARE for Life. TRICARE questions can be directed to the 18th MEDCOM TRICARE Service Center at DSN 736-8558/7238 or com 7916-8558/7238.

Prime Non Command Sponsored Active Duty Family Members (ADFM) are not eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime due to a change in DOD policy. These family members are eligible for TRICARE Standard which allows space available care in the Military Healthcare System. This new policy does not affect non Command Sponsored ADFMs enrolled in TRICARE Prime in Korea prior to 1 OCT 2005, as they are grandfathered into PRIME and will maintain their Prime benefit until the AD Service Member's DEROS. Active duty service members and their family members (who are with their sponsors in Korea) are the only individuals authorized to participate in TRICARE Prime in Korea. Active duty members must transfer their enrollment at current duty station in order to receive services. At this time, active duty members are not automatically transferred after relocating to a new duty station. Soldiers

are briefed on TRICARE during in-processing at the 1st Replacement Company and are provided with an enrollment form to enroll their family members. Enrollment forms can also be obtained from local military treatment facilities (MTFs) and the TRICARE Service Center. Once completed, the enrollment form can be mailed through the Military Postal System (MPS), turned in to the nearest TMC, or faxed to a number that appears on the application form. Eligible family members in CONUS may enroll at their local MTF. Everyone who enrolls in the TRICARE Prime program option will be assigned to a primary care manager. There are minimal out-of-pocket expenses for non-emergency care associated with this option.

Standard All classes of individuals, except active duty service members and their family members who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime, are automatically covered by TRICARE Standard. Those individuals covered by this option are seen on a space-available basis at MTFs. If seen at host nation medical facilities, patients must pay upfront and submit the claims (current TRICARE deductibles and cost shares will apply.) They also abide by current TRICARE /CHAMPUS rules.

TRICARE for Life is for military retirees and their eligible family members who are 65 years and older. You must purchase Medicare Part B in order to keep TRICARE eligibility.

For more information on TRICARE visit:

www.military.com/benefits/tricare

OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES: Similar to the US, diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, mites, ticks and rodents are present in Korea. Protection from disease is best provided by using Personal Protective Mea-

asures for the various disease vectors outlined below.

a. Vivax malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes and is present at relatively low levels, primarily in areas north of Seoul and near the DMZ, that do not currently warrant the use of chemoprophylaxis. For protection, all personnel should use repellents on exposed skin when in malaria risk areas during evening hours when mosquitoes are present. As mosquitoes can also bite through clothing, DEET repellent spray can be applied to the outer garments for protection. Soldiers should use permethrin impregnated ACU's during the malaria season.

b. Japanese encephalitis is transmitted by "rice paddy" mosquitoes and is present throughout Korea with higher numbers of cases reported in the south. Nearly all Korean are vaccinated, so the number of cases reported annually is very low. Most of the cases are asymptomatic or very minor symptoms with only about 1/200 becoming symptomatic. While there have been no reported US cases for over two decades, personnel should use personal protective measures as outlined in subsection (a) above.

c. The common house mosquito, *Cx. pipiens*, is often found in abundance on military installations, including Yongsan Garrison. In Korea, it is not attributed to the transmission of any disease. It is difficult to control as populations also breed in polluted water on and off post and in government housing complexes, often making pesticide applications ineffective. People have varying reactions to these mosquitoes from large welts that itch with subsequent scratching that can lead to scarring to nearly no reaction. These mosquitoes are night-time biters and enter houses through air conditioning systems or any small opening, e.g., under the door and through the drains. Thus bed nets, drain covers, and indoor space sprays that can be obtained from the military self-help supplies are often effective when used prior to going to bed. One Korean product that has been effective for some is called MOGSOL (needs a plug adaptor), and is available off post at grocery stores.

d. Korean Hemorrhagic Fever (KHF) or Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS) is transmitted through dust particles contaminated with rodent feces, urine and saliva. The reservoir for KHF is the striped field mouse and is primarily associated with soldier activities during training where rodents are often abundant. Entering and cleaning (creating dust) buildings that have rodent activity is one of the primary modes of transmission. Floors of unused buildings or concrete hardstands with suspected rodent activity should be, at a minimum, wetted with water to avoid aerosolization of potentially contaminated dust particles. When possible, areas should be wetted with a 5% Lysol or bleach solution and let stand for, at least, 15 minutes prior to cleaning to kill the virus. Also, avoid lying on potentially contaminated ground and using vegetation on uniforms/helmets for camouflage.

e. Scrub Typhus is transmitted by chigger mites that are nearly microscopic. The primary habitat of chigger mites is short to moderately tall grasses. Wearing trousers bloused inside boots, wearing impregnated uniforms, and not laying in grassy areas provides nearly 100% protections. When wearing civilian clothing and walking through grassy areas in the field, blousing trousers into socks and spraying with a DEET repellent on the lower legs provides protection.

f. Tick-borne Diseases. When in the field, personnel are exposed to ticks that can transmit a variety of diseases, to include spotted fever group Rickettsia, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, and bartonellosis. As human surveillance is lacking in Korea, the extent of these diseases is not readily available. Only one US person has been suspected to have ehrlichiosis. All are easily treatable with doxycycline if diagnosed. Ticks are found similarly to chigger mites in addition to forest litter. Avoidance is similar to that for scrub typhus.

AIR POLLUTION AND YOUR HEALTH

Air in Seoul is polluted. The major contributor to air pollution in Seoul is automobile emissions. However, every Spring an unwelcome addition to this problem blows in from the West. Yellow dust or “HwangSa” in Korean, comes from the deserts of China, Mongolia and Manchuria. This seasonal phenomenon occurs intermittently throughout the spring and is usually seen in the dry spring months, when meteorological conditions allow the sand picked up from deserts thousands of miles to the west and north of Korea to settle on the Korean peninsula. It typically rises to a height of 3 to 5 km before blowing eastward at some 30 meters per second, crossing the West (Yellow) Sea and arriving in Korea a few days later.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued guidelines for outdoor activity levels based on measured levels of dust particles in the air (See Table). According to the EPA, people with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children are at the highest risk, but everybody should try to minimize their exposure to this dust phenomenon as the concentration level increases. As the dust concentration level climbs above 200, people with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should try to avoid outdoor physical activity, and everyone else should try to avoid prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. Levels above 300 are a greater health concern, and those most at risk should remain indoors and keep their activity levels low, while others should try to avoid all unnecessary outdoor activity.

The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) issues an information notice at dust level concentrations above 200, a watch at concentrations above 300 and a warning at concentrations above 500. You should check their website during peak season (end of March to beginning of May) for more information. Log on to www.kma.go.kr click

on English to get the latest info. This is a weather website so it will only contain Yellow Dust information during that season. The USFK and Yongsan Garrison websites have links to current yellow-dust updates. Go to <http://www.usfk.mil/usfk/index.html##>, go to the bottom of the page and click on Yellow Dust Monitor for updated yellow-dust information. To minimize the adverse effects of “Yellow Dust”, observe the EPA cautionary statements, wash exposed parts of the body, such as the hands and face, with soap and water after coming indoors, and seek medical attention promptly if you experience adverse health effects. Yellow dust advisory is aired on Channel 3 and the area II website. If you have any further questions about Yellow Dust, contact your local health care provider or check the Environmental Protection Agency on the web at www.epa.gov/airnow/.

YELLOW SAND ACTIVITY RESTRICTION RECOMMENDATIONS As of 08 January 2008

Dust Concentration Microgram(ug)/m ³	Level of Health Concern	Health Alert Color Code	Personnel at High Risk*	All Others
0-99	Good	Green		
100-199	Moderate	Amber	Consider reducing prolonged and heavy exertion**	
200-399	Unhealthy	Blue "WATCH"	Do not exercise or play outdoors: Limit outdoor physical activity to bare essentials	Reduce prolonged and exertion**
400-799	Very Unhealthy	Orange "ADVISORY"	Avoid all outdoor activity	Do not conduct outdoor physical training: Cancel prolonged and heavy exertion outdoor activities**
800 or Greater	Hazardous	Purple "WARNING"	Remain indoors and keep activity levels low	

FOR THE LATEST YELLOW SAND LEVELS, go to <http://www.usfk.mil>, click on Yellow Sand, or <https://www.seoul.amedd.army.mil>, click on Yellow Sand, or call DSN 736-3033/3025, mobile 010-7124-9512

***Personel at High Risk:**

Children 5th grade & younger
Elderly-65 and older

Persons with heart disease
Persons with lung disease such as asthma

Persons with diabetes

****Heavy exertion**

Field training exercises
Road marching (any distance)
Mowing lawns

Outdoor recess or organized sports activities
Outdoor running (PT or recreational)

Commanders, supervisors, and school leaders should:

Identify individuals at high risk and implement appropriate protective measures
Commanders should include Yellow Sand conditions in training risk assessments



MOVIE THEATER

MOVIE THEATER

On Post –The Multi-Purpose Training Facility (MPTF), South Post, Bldg. 4218, is a complex for business meetings, Rock Church services on Sundays, and family entertainment on South Post. It houses a movie theater offering a variety of movies not too long after the original release dates. These movies are provided free of charge to valid ID card holders. For a listing of movies and times log on to: www.aafes.com/ems/pac/kcapital.htm or call 738-7389/3154.

Off Post - Seoul Selection Theater offers Korean films with English subtitles on Saturdays at 2:30p.m. and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. for 5,000 won. It is located on the third floor of the Kumho Museum of Art, directly across from the Kyongbok Palace near the U.S. Embassy. Get off at Anguk Station (Line 3, Exit 1). For more info log on to: www.seoulselection.com

MOYER COMMUNITY ACTIVITES CENTER (MCAC)

This facility is located on Main Post Bldg. #2259 near Gate 5, phone: 723-3291/3192 MCAC is named for Sergeant First Class Donald R. Moyer, E Company, 39th Infantry Regiment, and 24th Infantry Division, who absorbed the force of a hand grenade to save the lives of the men in his platoon. Eleven years after his death, Moyer Service Club was named in his honor (1976). In later years, the name was changed to Moyer Recreation Center and again to Moyer Community Recreation Center. In August 1987, the center was renovated and the name changed to the current name, Moyer Community Activities Center. In April 2003, the center underwent a complete face-lift giving us a brand new and improved facility.

MCAC is a family oriented atmosphere and houses one of the largest multipurpose game rooms with pool tables, darts, table tennis, foosball, and Korean billiards. Various events are held throughout the year such as chess and card tournaments, flea markets and special holiday or family events. In addition, you can relax in comfortable chairs and watch movies, sports or your favorite shows on TV in our lounge. The Cyber Café (723-7023) is located on the first floor. You can check your email, talk to friends and family or just have fun surfing the net. Musical instruments and Sound Rooms (723-3266) are available upon request on the second floor. Learn how to play the guitar, bass or drums for fun, and then put on a show for your friends on stage in the Community Theatre (723-5721) on the first floor. If you're hungry, the first floor has a small food court including a Baskin Robbins and a Dunkin Donuts. If you need some mementos or awards, the MWR Trophy Shop is located on the second floor. mwr.korea.army.mil

MCAC is also the hub of all post transportation to and from Yongsan. You will want to stop by and get the most up to date Bus Schedule

at The Military Bus Office and the Korean Bus Ticketing Office which are housed on the second floor. If you are interested in seeing other parts of South Korea, visit the United Services Organization (USO) for in-country tours. The USO has two offices, the one office located in Moyer is the place to go to make plans for Reunion in Korea (Reunion in Korea is housed at Moyer and can be reached at 723-3474, please see REUNION IN KOREA for more information), and their main office is at Camp Kim. If you want to travel to other parts of Asia or the world, visit Leisure Travel Services for unofficial travel and U.S. Airline Alliance for official and unofficial travel on the second floor. U.S. Airline Alliance also provides car rental services. And finally, the American Red Cross is located on the second floor and is there to help you! You can contact the American Red Cross at 738-3670 or email arc_yongan@korea.army.mil. Come in and see all the MCAC has to offer.

N

NEWSPAPERS - Subscriptions for the Stars & Stripes, The Korean Herald, The Korean Times, or USA Today are available for delivery. The Herald Tribune and USA Today do not deliver papers on Sunday. When subscribing to a newspaper keep your receipts for proof of payment since only a few of the delivery people speak English. The Stars & Stripes and USA Today are also widely available in vending machines on post. The Morning Calm Weekly is a complimentary newspaper available every Friday throughout the peninsula. The Yongsan Library is the most reliable source of news publications offering several large city newspapers arriving three to four days after publication dates.

- Stars & Stripes: www.stripes.com/ - 721-7140
- The Korean Herald: www.koreaherald.co.kr – 727-0404
- Korean Times: www.koreantimes.co.kr/ - 724-2359
- Herald Tribune: www.iht.com/ - 751-9222
- USA Today: www.usatoday.com/ - 852-2730-6556
- The Morning Calm: go to imcom.korea.army.mil
click on Morning Calm -738-5005

NONCOMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATIONS (NEO) - While Korea is a relatively safe location, it is important that all “noncombatants” be prepared to evacuate both quickly and safely. Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) are operations directed by the U.S. Department of State to evacuate eligible personnel from foreign countries where their lives are endangered by war, natural disaster or civil unrest to safe havens or to the U.S. People considered noncombatants are family members of U.S. DOD military and civilian employees, non-emergency essential U.S. civilian employees, and DOD invited contractors and their families. Both command-sponsored and non command-sponsored families are eligible for evacuation assistance from Korea. Military members and emergency essential civilian employees are NOT considered noncombatants and will remain in Korea until directed otherwise. All DOD affiliated noncombatants must register for NEO with their NEO warden. To help noncombatants prepare for a possible evacuation, U.S. Forces Korea conducts a semi-annual Courageous Channel exercise. All DOD-affiliated noncombatants are required to participate in these exercises, in order to rehearse evacuation procedures and to train personnel who support NEO execution. In addition to participating in Courageous Channel, each family is required to maintain a NEO kit to include the following items: important documents, enough food and water for three days, and protective gas masks (issued by the military). For more information, see FORCE PROTECTION.

N

NOTE: For personnel with pets in Korea; although U.S. Government policy does not require pets to be evacuated, in practice the U.S. has supported evacuation of pets in all recent evacuations. USFK will make reasonable efforts to evacuate pets of DOD affiliated personnel. All non-combatants must realize that the evacuation of people will always take priority over pets and pets are likely to be separated from their families during an evacuation.

In the event the family decides to transport their pets out of country commercially, all costs associated with commercial transportation are the sole responsibility of that family. If the U.S. government transports a pet on a military or chartered aircraft, the military covers only the cost of transporting the animal from Korea to the first CONUS port of entry. The family will then be responsible for all costs incurred from that site to the family's final destination. Those families unable to evacuate their pets should discuss their options with a veterinarian.

O

OPTICAL - Frames, lenses or complete pairs of eyeglasses can be purchased for a reasonable price from the Optical Shop in the Gallery on Main Post, at the Dragon Hill Lodge, EMart or in Itaewon. You can make an appointment to have your eyes examined by calling the Optometry Clinic on Main Post at 725-3601/5432. No contact lens fittings are done at the hospital, so bring a valid contact lens prescription and a 6-month to a 1-year supply of lenses with you. You can reorder contacts at the Optical Shop with a valid contact lens prescription, on the Korean economy or on the internet.

ORIENTAL PRESS – PSC 450, Box 758, APO AP 96206 (Main Post Bldg. #1440 behind American Community Bank) Oriental Press is a commercial printing and publishing contractor with a long-term presence and commitment to the U.S. military community in Korea. Since 1990, it has been a valued resource for a variety of services including printing of business cards and other stationary, military pride items such as IMCOM-K (Installation Management Command-Korea) items, including specialty projects of almost any description. As a contractor, Oriental Press prints and distributes the Morning Calm Weekly and the Seoul Survivor, both of which are provided at no cost as a service to the community. Oriental Press is the recommended place to go for advertising, printing projects and specialty items. 738-5005; www.op-press@kornet.net.

OSAN AIR FORCE BASE - Osan Air Force Base is approximately 35 miles south of Seoul. The average travel time from Yongsan is about one hour, if the traffic is light. Many people take a bus out of Moyer CAC. Buy your return ticket when you arrive at Osan, the tickets sell out quickly so be prepared. Maps are available in Moyer Community Activities Center showing the various routes to Osan. Despite the possible hassles of the commute, an occasional trip to Osan can be productive for several reasons. Shopping in the surrounding community of Song-tan can be cheaper for some items such as sports apparel and it is a fun way to spend the day. Song-tan is similar to Itaewon but it has a lot of winding alley ways filled with various vendors. There are several restaurants scattered throughout, including McDonalds and Burger King (with bathrooms). On base there is a brand new state of the art BX that carries a wide selection of merchandise. The Commissary at Osan also carries some different products as well. The BX has a good variety of fast food restaurants in the Food Court and across from the BX are a Chili's and a 1950's theme diner called Checker

Tails. It serves huge pancakes as well as hamburgers, hotdogs, and even Korean meals. There are many AAFES taxis at all locations you will be traveling between.

A word of advice: If traveling by car with children, pack a cooler with snacks and drinks and bring books and games for the possible traffic jam that has you sitting in the car for hours. Some traffic delays can be avoided by taking the bus from the Moyer to Osan. Buses get to use the special bus lane that bypasses most of the traffic delays.

P

PETS - Veterinary services are available on Yongsan from the 129th Medical Detachment (VM). The clinic is located on South Post, just north of the gas station. For information, call DSN 738-4261/5145 or from the US 011-822-7918-4261/5145. Services are available to eligible personnel on an “as time permits” basis. All basic shots are provided at nominal cost.

The policy for importation of privately owned animals into Korea requires the following:

□ **A Health Certificate** (the original plus two copies, it must be less than 10 days old when you arrive in Korea). It is recommended that you use a military vet. If you use a civilian veterinarian you will have to get a USDA approved signature and have the civilian vet send it to the Agricultural Office and then it will be returned to you, etc.)

□ **Rabies Certificate** (the original plus two copies). The vaccination must be current and at least 30 days old. Distemper is a problem here in Korea so it is recommended that you not bring a pet over that is not

fully vaccinated (at least 6 months or older). Animals arriving without a current rabies vaccination or one that is less than 30 days old will be quarantined at the owner's expense for up to a maximum of 30 days.

☐ **Bill of Lading or Certificate of Excess Baggage** with original signature (if the animal is traveling unaccompanied).

****If you correctly secure the three items above, your pet will not be quarantined.**

When preparing your animal's cage for transport, attach the following to the cage:

- ☐ Forwarding Address to Unit
- ☐ 1 copy of the Rabies Certificate
- ☐ 1 copy of the Health Certificate
- ☐ 1 copy of your flight itinerary
- ☐ 1 copy of your orders assigning you to Korea
- ☐ Feeding schedule for your pet
- ☐ Personal Information about your pet

Transporting your pet -Airline regulations regarding transport of animals tends to change so confirm the recent regulations before travel. Try to have your pet accompany you on your flight to Korea. If your pet flies separately, the cost to you could be high. In most cases, animals are not allowed to be transported during extreme temperatures in the summer and winter. Each airline has its own regulations, so check with your particular airline. Most airlines will not fly animals in the summer months at all. However, some airlines will waive all temperature regulations for your initial PCS into Korea.

Registering your pet – If you live on post you must register your pet within the first 10 days of arrival. If you live off post it is recommended

that you register your pet within the same time frame. Bring all the information and certificates that were previously listed, as well as any additional vet records for your pet. Providing more information allows the staff to get to know your pets and properly care for them. USFK policy is that all animals will be micro-chipped. Ask your sponsor for details.

When quarantine is required (only for pets that do not meet above requirements), all dogs and cats are placed in the National Quarantine Station in Seoul. Upon arrival in Korea, go to the Yongsan Pet Care Center (YPCC). Present the following: your original rabies certificate, original health certificate, Bill of Lading or Certificate of Excess Baggage with original signature (if the animal is traveling alone), 1 copy of your orders assigning you to Korea and a power-of-attorney (the YPCC has a form to sign). They also require that you fill out paperwork for your animal to be picked up from the Quarantine Station. Once your animal has been released from quarantine, you will need to register him or her with the 129th Medical Detachment (VM) Veterinary Hospital within 10 days.

Owners are responsible for arranging housing for their pets. Most hotels, including the Dragon Hill Lodge, do not allow pets. It is recommended that arrangements be made with your sponsor or with the Yongsan Pet Care Center 736-6426.

NOTE: Yongsan Vet Clinic has a Stray Facility open M-F from 3-4pm 738-4261. If you decide to adopt a pet after you arrive in Korea, check with the veterinary services before adopting a pet off the economy. Many people have brought home a cute puppy or kitten, only to have it die within a matter of days because of illnesses which were undetected at the time of purchase. Also, do not allow your children to pet strange animals. Often pets carry diseases from missing their yearly vaccines. We recommend you contact both the airlines and the USFK customs office (738-5110) for up-to-date information.

PET CARE CENTER - Operated by DPCA on Yongsan South Post, Building 5256, near Gate 17, call 736-6426. They offer bathing, boarding, and grooming at reasonable prices. This center is located separately from the Vet. Clinic. Many people assume in the beginning that the two places are in the same place...so note the location. The Pet Care Center also serves as the Yongsan quarantine facility. For a fee, you can make arrangements to transfer your pet from the National Quarantine Station. The pet care center is closed on Sundays and holidays. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Mr. Kim will also pick your pet up at the airport, clear customs, and deliver to the Pet Care Center for a nominal fee.

POSTAL SERVICES - For those of you stationed for the first time overseas, the APO (Army Post Office) system may be a new experience as well. The APO processes all mail coming to and from the Armed Forces Pacific (AP) Region, of which Korea is a part. Sending mail to and from this region costs the normal continental United States postal rate. However, you must use the United States Postal Service. Other carriers such as Fed Ex and UPS deliver to Korea at international rates. There are USPS mail drop boxes located throughout Yongsan along with two postal facilities on the post. The Main Post Office is located just behind the library. The South Post Annex is located in Bldg: S-4200 tucked in the corner next to the Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop. These facilities maintain different days and hours of operation. It is suggested you use Priority Mail for most items. It may cost a little more but it gets to and from the states much faster (usually within 7-10 days). Shipping parcel post can literally take months. Another great tip is to use the flat rate boxes that cost about \$8. The postal employees are very friendly and helpful and will do their best to help you get your mail where it needs to go and in the time frame you need it delivered. In Yongsan, office appointed mail clerks distribute mail.

General Delivery is available for those who cannot be serviced by a unit mailroom. Applications and specific details are available from the APO on South Post. Limited individual postal boxes are also available for South Post family residents at the Postal Self-Service Center (PSC), which is adjacent to the APO annex on South Post.

- Main Post Office - 723-3301/4659/9019
Operating Hours: Monday-Friday 0900-1700
Saturday 0900-1300
Closed Sunday
- South Post Annex - 738-3522/4412
Operating Hours: Monday, Wednesday-Friday 1000-1600
Closed Tuesday, Sunday
- Postal Self-Service Center - 738-4412

PRODUCE - Fresh fruits and vegetables are available from a variety of sources on and off post. The Commissary stocks just about all the fruit and vegetables you will ever need. There are huge markets, Korean stores and street vendors that carry fruits and vegetables. Namdaemun Market is one of the largest wholesale fruits and vegetables markets; Bondong Sangga at Namdaemun sells all kinds of fresh fruits at very low prices. Korean fruits include apple, pear, persimmon, strawberries, watermelon, as well as imported fruits like mango, orange, and pineapple. To find Bondong Sangga, take the subway Line 4 to Hoe-hyeon Station 425 take Exit 5 at Namdaemun Market. If you regularly do business with a particular vendor, you will get better prices and quality.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS - There are many public restrooms throughout Seoul. Many of them still contain “in-grown” Turkish style toilets or squat pots. However, you can’t go wrong with the toilets in department

stores, McDonalds, Burger Kings and most of the modern buildings. In the last 10 years, Korea has had a policy that any new building must have western-style toilets installed. If you must use a local facility, just ask “Hwa-jahng-shil-o-dee yeh yo” (Where is the restroom?)

POST EXCHANGE (PX) - There are many PX facilities scattered throughout Yongsan and Hannam Village. The Main PX located on Main Post is surrounded by a series of smaller stores run by both AAFES and AAFES concessionaires. The PX is noted for excellent seasonal sales on electronics equipment (stereos, televisions, cameras, and computers), men's, women's, and children's clothing, health and beauty aids and many household items to furnish your home.

Website: www.aafes.com

Post Exchange (PX)

Main Post 724-4365, Hannam 723-4461/4462

The Mini Mall on Main Post across from the PX houses these AAFES stores:

- ☐ Alterations/Tailors – 723-2080
- ☐ Barber Shop - 723-7858
- ☐ Main Beauty Shop - 723-2066
- ☐ Four Seasons/Toyland stocks toys, camping and outdoor cooking supplies, sports equipment, exercise equipment, lawn and garden equipment. 723-2072/2073
- ☐ Flower Shop has a variety both fresh and artificial flowers and plants for all occasions. 723-2076
- ☐ Military Clothing - 723-2079
- ☐ Shoppette/Class Six - 723-2069

R

RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES - There are many religious programs available to our community. They are tailored to meet the unique needs of all military and DOD civilian personnel and their families. Most chapels offer a variety of activities for all age groups to include religious education programs, choirs, Bible study groups, and various chapel-sponsored organizations.

The ministry teams of the Army, Navy and Air Force in Korea also offer a wide variety of religious services and worship opportunities to military members and their families. The chaplains offer daily morning devotions on AFKN Monday through Friday. Also available are counseling services, marriage enrichment programs, outreach programs for non command-sponsored spouses and family members. Virtually all religious faiths are represented by services held at the various chapels. Contact the South Post Chapel (738-6054/3058) for any information regarding religious activities.

In addition to the chapels, the Eighth Army Religious Retreat Center is a one-of-a-kind facility operated by the Chaplains of Korea. Unit chaplains and denominational groups offer religious retreats regularly at a minimal cost. The retreat center and chapel is located on a 5-acre site in the heart of Seoul and provides lodging, recreational activities, meeting rooms and an excellent dining hall. There are also a number of religious programs in the metropolitan area that graciously welcome new members.

On-Post Religious Services

South Post Chapel

738-6054/6055 – South Post Building 3702

(across from Dragon Hill Lodge)

Sunday:	Catholic Mass	0800
	Collective Protestant	1000
	Collective Protestant Gospel	1200
Friday:	Jewish	1900

Memorial Chapel

725-4076/8182 – Main Post Building 1597

Sunday:	Collective Protestant	0800
	Episcopal	1000
	Catholic Mass	1130
	United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI)	1330
	Catholic Mass	1700
M//Th/F:	Catholic Mass	1205
Thursday:	KATUSA Worship	1830
2/3 Tuesday:	Korean Christian Fellowship Assn. (KFCA)	1145
Last Tuesday:	ROK Catholic Mass	1800
1 st Saturday:	Catholic Mass to the Blessed Mary	0900

Hannam Village

723-4524 – Building 6108

Sunday:	Korean Protestant Service	0930
	Collective Protestant Service	1100

R

121st Combat Support Hospital Chapel

737-5000

Sunday:	Collective Protestant Service	0930
Saturday	Seventh-Day Adventist	0930
Tue/Wed:	Catholic Mass	1205

K-16 Chapel

741-6687 – Building S-302 (next to the Post Office)

Sunday:	Collective Protestant	1030
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Multi-Purpose Training Facility

738-4994 – South Post Movie Theater

Sunday:	“Relying on Christ in Korea” (ROCK) Contemporary praise and worship	1000
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Bible Studies and Religious Clubs

The chapels on post have many active groups from which to choose. Please call South Post Chapel for an up to date listing of these clubs at 738-6054. Depending on your interest you will find many activities available to you and your family. A small sampling includes, AWANA, Men of the Morning Calm, PWOC, Vacation Bible School, Club Beyond, and various bible studies according to faith and interests. The numerous activities these chapels have going on everyday is amazing...so take the time to visit a service or just stop by one of the chapels and get involved.

Off Post Religious Services

Protestant

□ **Church of God Serviceman' Center:** 225-1, Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-Ku, Pastor Woodrow Givens, 749-6995.

- **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS):** Harry Cunningham, Branch President, call 796-8187.
- **International Lutheran Church** 726-39, Hannam 2-dong, Yongsan-gu, Pastor Michael Fonner, call 794-6274.
- **Onnuri Church:** 241-96 Seobinggo-Dong, Yongsan-gu, Pastor Marc Choi. Call 793-3645
- **Seoul International Baptist Church** Yoido-Dong, Yoido, call 02-793-6268.
- **Seoul International Baptist Church:** 47-11, Yongsan 2ga-dong, Yongsan-gu, Pastor Jack Peters, call 793-6267.
- Victory Christian Fellowship (VCF):** 181-8, Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Pastor Andrew Hirata, call 703-7418.
- **Yoido Full Gospel Church:** 11, Yoido-dong, Yeongdungpo-gu, Pastor KyungHo Yim, call 782-8403/783-2291.
- **Yong Nak Presbyterian Church:** 2069, Jeo-dong, Chung-ku, Pastor Bill Majors, call 2280-0228.
- **Yongsan Baptist Church:** PO Box 118, Yongsan-gu, Pastor David L. Lewis, call 796-0284. Seoul Union Church: 144, Hapjeong-Dong, Mapo-gu, Pastor Prince C. Oteng-Boateng, call 333-7393.

Catholic

- **Catholic International Parish of Seoul:** 707, Hannam 2-dong, Yongsan-gu, call 793-2070.
- **Myong-Dong Cathedral:** 1, Myongdong 2-ga, Jong-gu, call 774-3890

Muslim

- **The Seoul Central Masjid (Islamic):** 732-21, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, call 794-7307.

REPAIRS - For getting things repaired, word of mouth is always the best way. There are new shops springing up all the time. Check a shop's current reputation before leaving anything for repair.

On Post Repairs

- **Electronic Repair Shop** - Repairs all major appliances, radio, TV, VCR and CD/cassette players. Always ask for an estimate before the work is done. Their work is good, but could get pricey and some items may have a long delay. Located on South Post, Bldg 4220, across from the Mini Mall. Call 738-5274.
- **Bicycles** - Four Seasons on Main Post, call 723-2072/2073.
- **Computers** - The Gallery on Main Post, call 723-4030
- **Shoes** - The Gallery of Main Post, call 723-5149.
- **Watch/Jewelry and Camera** - The Gallery on Main Post, call 02-749-9924.

Off Post Repair Shops

Some people have experienced success with the following:

- **Auto Body/Paint Shops** - Charley's Auto Repair, call 793-7919, or Yang's Garage Company, call 322-6939, or Kim's Garage, call 795-3712.
- **General Repairs** - for furniture, upholstery, glass, carpet cleaning, draperies, and many odd job repairs. Do All Interior Co., call 797-3213/797-1237.

REUNION IN KOREA - Reunion in Korea, a special program sponsored by the Korean National Tourism Organization, is probably one of the best ways to see the country in a hassle-free fashion. The program is designed as a token of gratitude to the U.S. Forces Korea and its personnel serving here. The program enables active duty American service personnel and U.S. Department of Defense civilian employees

to bring their family members to Korea at an affordable cost, which varies depending on the point of departure in the United States. The cost per participant includes round-trip airfare and all costs for first-class hotel accommodations, regular meals, tours, and transportation while in Korea for either three days or five days. Air tickets are also available without the tour package. The in-country program includes visits to famous cultural and tourist sites, dinner parties with entertainment, and a presentation by the American forces. Reunion visitors are required to stay a minimum of 7 days, but may remain up to one year if desired (a visa is required for visitors staying longer than 30 days). Personnel already in Korea can join their family members for a minimal charge. Many families have found this to be an excellent way to be together with loved ones and to see Korea at the same time. Applications for reunion visits may be obtained and submitted in person at the Moyer Community Activities Center - Reunion in Korea on the second floor. Questions about the reunion tour can be answered by the Reunion Desk at 723-3474.

Email: reunion@ktbinc.co.kr.

internet www.korea.army.mil/pao/cr/reunion.htm

Or write to:

USFK Public Affairs Office

FKPA-CR (REUNION)

PSC 303, Box 42

APO AP 96204-0042

S

SCHOOLS - If you are coming to Korea as a **command-sponsored** family, your children will be eligible to attend Department of Defense Dependent Schools located on Yongsan South Post. Non command-sponsored children are accommodated on a space available basis. Seoul American Elementary School (SAES), Seoul American Middle School (SAMS), and Seoul American High School (SAHS) are fully accredited schools that offer a wide variety of classes and services, including classes for talented and gifted, special education, and English as a second language. School registration is held in June. Also, there are several other schools for foreigners located in Seoul which offer a variety of curriculums. High School students need to report to room 108 in the high School to sign up for classes with the guidance counselor. It is crucial that you contact the appropriate school counselors from where you are leaving prior to June 1st by DSN phone or email as you will not find any staff members here during the summer.

Korea District Superintendent's Office

U.S. Eighth Army Garrison, Yongsan

Superintendent: Mr. Samuel Mennitti

Email: KoreaSUPT_DSO@pac.dodea.edu

Phone: 738-6826

From the U.S.: 011-82-2-7918-5922

Web Site: <http://www.korea.pac.dodea.edu>



Seoul Elementary School

S

Seoul Elementary School (grades K-5, PCSD, and Sure Start)

Principal: Mrs. Donna Kacmarski

Email: PRINCIPAL_*SEOUL_ES@pac.dodea.edu

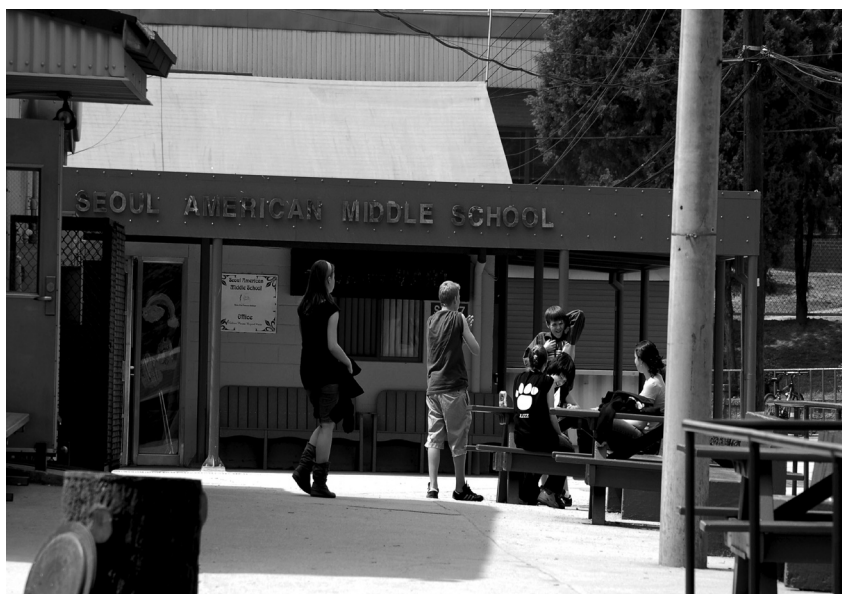
Phone: 736-5437/4842

From the U.S.: 011-82-2-7916-5437

Web Site: http://www.seoul_es.pac.dodea.edu

2004-05 enrollment: 1,150

School day: 07:55-14:15



Seoul Middle School

**Seoul Middle School
(grades 6-8)**

Principal: Mr. Darrell Mood

Email: PRINCIPAL_SEOULMS@pac.dodea.edu

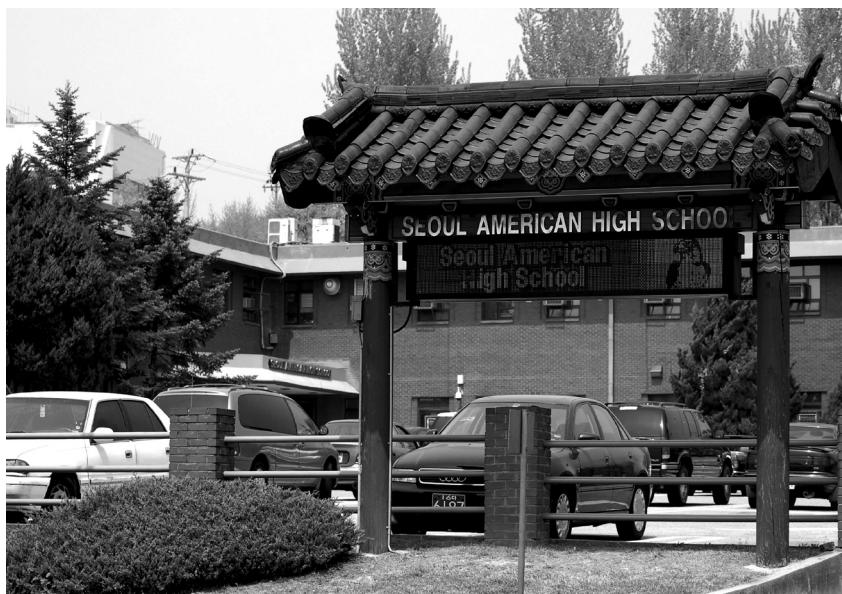
Phone: 736-7337/7364

From the U.S.: 011-82-2-7916-7337/7364

Web Site: http://www.seoul_ms.pac.dodea.edu

2004-05 enrollment: 590

School day: 07:55-14:35



Seoul High School

**Seoul High School
(grades 9-12)**

Principal: Mr. Robert Sennett

Email: PRINCIPAL_SEOULHS@pac.dodea.edu

Phone: 738-5265/8140

From the U.S.: 011-82-2-798-3666/7

Web Site: http://www.seoul_hs.pac.dodea.edu

2004-05 enrollment: 698

School day: 07:55-14:4

School Registration: DODDS Seoul Registration Office – 738-7707 (at ACS)

Only a sponsor or spouse may register the children for school. HAND CARRY all school records with you when you PCS. You can only register for school when you are physically in Korea. Call DSN 738-7707. For registration you will need the following:

- ☐ Shot Records-the Immunization Clinic at the 121st General Hospital will make sure that they are up to date.
- ☐ Orders-one copy of the sponsor's orders verifying command sponsorship (must have dependent's names on orders) are needed for registration.
- ☐ High School-students entering high school need to report to room 108 in the high school to sign up for classes with the guidance counselor.
- ☐ Kindergarten and First Grade Students entering school need to bring a copy of their birth certificate or passport.
- ☐ Bus transportation is provided for students who live in designated areas. For current information, contact the Bus Transportation Office, located in Bldg: 4106 Room 121, at 738-5032. Bus passes will be issued only to a parent. You will need to show paperwork verifying your student is registered.

Bus transportation is provided for students who live off post in designated areas. For current information, contact the Bus Transportation Office, located in Bldg. 4106 Room 121, at 738-3156. Bus passes will be issued only to a parent. You will need to show paperwork verifying your student is registered. Bus transportation is not offered for children on post.

Home Schooling - Currently on Yongsan there are several families who choose to educate their children at home. Finding information on the regulations in reference to the SOFA agreement and home

schooling can be obtained from the Home School Legal Defense or the DODDS system. Also available while home schooling in Korea is a program called I.D.E.A. International. It is an independent organization funded by a grant from the Department of Defense that operates in partnership with the DODDS system. The program provides assistance to families who are active-duty military or DOD civilian employees who are entitled to tuition-free education at a DODDS school, but who choose to home school. Further information about this program can be obtained from www.intidea.org. Home school supplies are also available at the PX in limited quantities, or they can be ordered from the internet. There is a Yahoo group you can email about home schooling in Korea: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SeoulHomeschool/>

Preschools - There are three schooling options on post for preschool age children:

□ Sure Start is a program designated for children ages 3 and 4 of parents ranked E-9 or GS-9 and below. The school is run five days per week from 8am to 12 p.m. There is no fee for enrollment. Parents are encouraged to commit to a minimum number of volunteer hours, call 736-4613.

□ The Yongsan Child Development Center offers a part-day pre-school program for children ages 3 to 5 (must be potty trained) 3-day program (M/W/F) and a 2-day program (T/Th) from 0800-1130 during the school year. Register at Central Registration (738-5036) and they can provide information about availability and schedule of fees based on pay grade.

□ Mustard Seed Christian Preschool is a South Post Chapel program. Classes for four-year olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Classes for three-year olds meet on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes are offered both in the morning (8:15-11:15) and afternoon (12:15-3:15) Register as soon as possible, as spaces for this school fill quickly. To check for current information call DSN 738-8503.

Off-Post Schools

- Centennial Christian School (K-12), 57 Ehwa-dong, Chongno-gu, Seoul 110-500, call 762-3160.
- International Christian School (K-12), P.O. Box 62 SRCO, Seoul 140-600, call 792-4116/7.
- Seoul Academy (K-8), Young-dong, P.O. Box 85, Seoul, call 554-1690.
- Seoul Foreign School (K-12), 55 Yunhi-dong, Suhdaemoon-gu, Seoul 120-113, call 335-5101/5.
- Seoul International School (K-12), Songpa-gu, P.O. Box 47, Seoul, Korea 138-600, call 233-4551/2.

Also see ADULT EDUCATION

SCOUTS - Active scouting programs are available for both boys and girls. Adult volunteers are welcome too. Registration drives begin in the Fall; check with the school office for scout flyers or contact information. Channel 3 and Morning Calm also have current contact information. For more information you may contact the following:

Girl Scouts: Girl Scout Hut located next to the furniture store on South Post

E-Mail: gsocseoul@yahoo.com

Web Address:

www.westpacificgirlscouts.com or www.girlscouts.org/overseas

Boy Scouts: Boy Scout Hut located in Bldg#S3646 next to South Post Chapel: 738-4860

E-Mail: Boyscout@zama.army.mil (Far East Council contact)

Web Address: www.fareastbsa.org

SKIING - Snow skiing is rapidly becoming one of the most popular

sports in Korea. Please refer to TRAVEL IN KOREA for more information.

SOFA - The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) is the treaty between the American and Korean governments that ensures certain privileges and rights to American military members and their families in the Republic of Korea. All aspects of the American presence in Korea are dealt with under SOFA, which is continually undergoing reviews and revisions by a bi-national committee. American passports with the A-3 visa stamp should be stamped with a SOFA stamp too. Family members whose passports are not stamped with a SOFA stamp may experience detainment or fines when re-entering Korea. This stamp is NOT automatic; it must be obtained within 30 days of arriving in Korea. (Both COMMAND AND NONCOMMAND-sponsored family members need this stamp). Check with ACS to get the time and day that a person from the Korean Immigration Office will be on Yongsan to stamp passports. Also be sure to ask ACS for all current information 738-7999/7186.

SPACE AVAILABLE FLIGHTS - Space A Travel is available through Osan Air Base located south of Seoul. There have been many changes recently that affect who can travel and where the flights go. Please see this website www.osan.af.mil and click on Space A Information to get more up to date information about the selection process, fees, and baggage restrictions.

SUBWAY - See TRANSPORTATION.

SWIMMING - There are four swimming pools on post. One is covered for year-round use on Main Post (Camp Coiner 725-6984). The Point Health Club at the Dragon Hill Lodge has a year-round pool, but it is only available to hotel guests and members of The Point. The other

two pools are located next to the high school (South Post, 738-4537) and at the Hannam Village Housing area (723-6849/6847), respectively. The swimming season for these two pools runs from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.

Swimming off post is restricted for military members and not recommended for dependents. The Eighth U.S. Army Standards Handbook (listed under "Off Limits Establishments") states that natural bodies of water such as lakes, streams, rivers, and ocean beach areas are off limits for EUSA personnel for swimming, wading, bathing, diving, or ice skating unless specifically approved by the installation or area commander. Fishing, boating, and sunbathing are not restricted. Also, be cautious of swimming in off-post swimming pools.

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TELEPHONES - Step one, take a deep breath. Step two, make 2-3 photocopies of the next section and keep one with you at all times and tape one next to your phone until you figure it all out. Depending on where you live affects which provider you will have. To set up a commercial phone line, you will need to go to the Korea Telecom office located on the second floor of the ACS Building 4106 and they will let you know which service to sign up for and what to do next. Commercial lines usually require a deposit and a per-minute charge for all outgoing calls (including local).

If you do not have a telephone in your quarters, there are overseas telephone lines at Moyer Community Activities Center. You can use

the phones and pay for calls in dollars or won. Another option is to purchase telephone cards for use in the local pay telephones or use your Korean cell phone if you have one.

Here's information that will help:

OUTGOING CALLS: HOW TO PLACE A CALL

Phone to phone within your calling area	Dial Phone Number	Dial XXXX-XXXX
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Phone to commercial phone within calling area	Dial Phone Number	Dial XXX-XXXX
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Phone to commercial phone outside of your calling area	Dial Area Code (including '0') + phone number	Dial 0XX-XXX-XXXX
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Phone to DSN phone	If the DSN number you wish to call has 0505 prefix, then dial 0505+ DSN number (DSN number)	Dial 0505-XXX-XXXX
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Phone to DSN phone	If the DSN number you wish to call does not have 0505 prefix, then dial area code and the commercial phone. For example, if the DSN number in Walker is 764-1234, then dial 053-471-1234	
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Phone to USA Commercial Phone	Dial 002+ Country Code + Area Code + Phone Number 002-1-XXX-XXX-XXXX	Dial
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Phone to	Just Dial Emergency Number:
Emergency Numbers	110: Military Police
	115: Civil Disturbance Hot Line
	116: Hospital
	117: Fire Station
	911: All Emergency Services

Phone to Mobile Phone	Dial Mobile Phone Number	Dial 0XX-XXXX-XXXX
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INCOMING CALLS: HOW TO TELL OTHERS TO CALL YOU

DSN Phone to Phone	Dial DSN Commercial Access Code "99" + Phone Number Dial 99+ XXXX-XXXX
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Calling from commercial phone within your calling area	Dial Phone Number Dial XXXX-XXXX
---	----------------------------------

Calling from commercial phone outside of your calling area	Dial area code + phone number Dial 0XX-XXXX-XXXX
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Calling from a mobile phone	Dial area code + phone number Dial 0XX-XXXX-XXXX
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USA commercial to phone	Dial international access code + Country Code + Area Code (omit the 0) + phone number Dial 011-82-2 (omit the 0) -XXXX-XXXX
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TELEVISION - AFKN (Armed Forces Korea Network) provides both radio and TV service for the American military community. The programming covers a wide range. Projected weekly schedules are given

to area publications (Stars and Stripes, Korea Herald, Korea Times) several weeks in advance, so occasionally programming does not match published information. You can also check the following website for the latest TV schedule <http://afnkorea.com/tv.htm>. Cable TV was installed in 1994. For a monthly service charge, viewers can receive the following channels: AFN, CNN, Fox News, ESPN, TNT, HBO, Cartoon Network, HBO Family, Cinemax, Star World, Star Movies, MTV, National Geographic Channel - Asia, and several other channels. Various shows from the three "major" networks (CBS, ABC and NBC) are broadcast, but schedules vary. Service can be arranged at the ACS building, second floor. You can purchase a cable box for a monthly fee which can be automatically deducted from your any bank account.

TENNIS - Numerous courts are scattered around Main and South Posts. Lessons are available, and reservations are required. For reservations or information, call 736-4563/4588.

THEATRES - The Yongsan Performing Arts Center (currently located in the Moyer Community Activities Center) is host to the Yongsan Players who put on several productions each year. Auditions are held periodically for community/amateur performers. The AFKN "Community Calendar" and USAG-Yongsan website www.area2.korea.army.mil gives information daily about post concerts and activities, as well as a new listing of cultural events in the area. The Seoul Word also offers weekly information about cultural events in the area. The Sejong Center for the Performing Arts is located across from the U.S. Embassy in downtown Seoul. Take Line 5 on the subway and get off at the Gwanghwamun Station 533, Exit 1. Tickets can be purchased at the ticket booth outside the main doors to the left. You can also visit their website at www.sejongpac.or.kr or call 02-501-1377. Be aware that cultural events at the Sejong are more expensive for foreign performances than for local Korean performances.

THRIFT SHOP- The Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop is a non-profit private organization. Volunteers from the American Women's Club of Korea Thrift Shop Association, in conjunction with the United States Military, operate the Thrift Shop. It is located in Building 4222 next to the Chosun Gift Shop. The shop offers resale items, from clothing to furniture. All are welcome to shop and/or donate items. Donations are taken during store hours or there is a 24 hour donation bin located near the side entrance of the shop. Only active American Women's Club members (See CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS) or Governmental ID card holders can consign items. The proceeds are used to support charities both on and off post. For more information call 02-795-7675 or email welfare_awctsa1@hotmail.com. Operating hours are Mon and Sat 10am-3pm and Wed 10am-6p.m. Consignment hours are by appointment only.

TRANSPORTATION - Getting around Yongsan, Seoul, and Korea is not difficult once you learn the available means of transportation.

On-Post Transportation

□ **Shuttle buses** - This is a free service provided primarily for the convenience of active duty personnel. It has also become an important means of transportation for many family members as well. Yongsan post shuttles run a loop around the post. They provide service to numerous locations on Main Post, Camp Coiner, and South Post. Route maps are available at Moyer Community Activities Center. The stops are easily seen throughout the post, marked by white 'shuttle bus' signs. Yongsan post runs operate every 30 minutes from 0600-2100 M-F and 0800-2100 Sat/Sun. Shuttle buses also service surrounding installations within Area II including Hannam Village (runs approx every 1 ¼ hours), K-16 (runs approx every 2 ½ hours), Incheon Airport, Camp Market, and YongIn. Contact 723-7152 for further info.

□ **Taxis** - AAFES provides taxi service for use by military ID card holders. These taxis are available for destinations both on and off post. AAFES cabs are the ONLY taxis permitted on the post. The drivers speak some English, and the fare is paid in U.S. currency. You can have an AAFES taxi come to a particular location by calling 736-5113/ 5114/ 5115 or when calling from other installations, 02-7916-5113/5114/5115 or you can go to one of the taxi stands. These are located at Dragon Hill Lodge, the 121st General Hospital, the Commissary, the PX (during operating hours), and behind the bus terminal on Main Post. The cost of these cabs is a \$3.00 flat rate.

□ **Commercial buses** - In addition to the on post shuttle bus service, there are also buses that provide transportation to Osan AFB, Tongduchon, neighboring camps, and posts throughout Korea. These buses originate and terminate at the bus terminal located at Moyer CAC. Check at Moyer CAC for the most current information about routes and applicable fares. Bus service is also provided for inprocessing personnel from area hotels to Yongsan. 1RC can provide you with the information and a schedule.

Off-Post Transportation

□ **Local Taxis**- Though being fluent in Korean is not necessary, it is helpful to know a few directional words when dealing with the Korean taxi drivers. Tipping cab drivers, like other services in Korea, is not necessary. Local Korean taxis are not permitted on post. If you take one to Yongsan, you will be deposited by one of the many gates leading into Main or South Post. Depending on your destination you can still have quite a long walk. It's a good idea to know what gate you need and you may want to have the area outside post written in hangul to show the taxi driver. The local taxis are medium-size cabs, usually gray or white in color and recognizable by the blue sign on roof. They

are fast and usually quite reliable as long as you know your desired destination in Korean (have someone write it out for you in Hangul). Many cab drivers are able to understand the names of major hotels, markets and shopping areas. The taxis are relatively inexpensive, but be sure a meter is used. Look for "Free Interpretation" signs on these cabs. Some cabs now carry this service with a phone that you can call to speak with an interpreter to help get you to your destination. There is also a Volunteer Translation Service called BBB that you can contact anytime for help, 02-1588-5644.

□ **Deluxe taxis** - These are the somewhat larger taxis seen in the city. They are black with a yellow sign on the roof and the words "Deluxe Taxi" written on the side. These cabs are more expensive, but the drivers generally speak some English. Again, make sure there is a meter or you will need to decide on a price BEFORE you get into the taxi.

City Buses - LET'S GET OUTSIDE AND ENJOY THE RIDE! Did you know there is a bus near you that will take you to some of your favorite places in Seoul? Many of us are fairly comfortable with the subway wouldn't it be nice to know how to get to key locations above ground as well? Here are just a few of the bus routes to get you started.

POST GATE	BUS #	DESTINATION
1, 19	Blue 151	Insadong (Get off at Anguk. Follow signs to Insadong) Jogyesa Temple Cheongdeokgang Palace
1, 19	Blue 149, 150	Seoul Station Namdaemun
5, 7	Green 0013	Seoul Station

Namdaemun
Dongdaemun

Blackhawk Blue 143

Central City

(From gate, go upstairs to cross street.)

Newcore Outlet

Left & walk to corner. Up steps on right.

Kim's Club

(Continue right to bus stop. Get off bus at next stop.)

Blackhawk Blue 730

Lotte World

(Get off at Jamsil.)

HELPFUL HINTS: Buses are busy during work mornings, begin your trip after 9:30 am. Remember to scan your T-Money card as you enter and exit the bus. Write down the other bus numbers on the sign at the stop where you begin your journey. You can use any of these buses to get back home!

To get home, simply cross the street to board one of the buses on your list. (It isn't necessary to cross the street at Lotte World because the bus loops back around.)

Subway - Seoul has a comprehensive subway that will get you easily and quickly to almost any part of the city. This is a great way to get around. At the Ticket Desk, ask for **an English Subway Map**. There is a list on the back of how to get to the most popular places in Seoul, which exit to take once you are at the destination station, and even how long it will take to walk from that exit to your desired destination. It's a pocket guide to Seoul! The fare is very reasonable, 900 won each way.

There are two ways to pay

1. Go to the ticket window, state your destination, pay the fare and receive a ticket. Validate the ticket at the turnstile with the lighted arrow. **DO NOT DESTROY OR LOSE YOUR TICKET BECAUSE YOU WILL TURN IT IN AT THE TURNSTILE AT YOUR DESTINATION.**
2. You can ask at the window for a T-Money card (there are advertisements for it on the window and you can point to it) It will cost approximately 11,000 won, 1,000 won for the card and 10,000 won to be deducted as you travel. When you go to the turnstile you put your card flat and swipe it, the machine will register the amount and show you your remaining balance. It is so convenient if you ride the subway a lot and it saves time at each location so you do not have to get a new ticket. You can continue over time to add money to the same card, even as little as 5,000 won. Just hand the person at the ticket booth your money and your card.

Boarding the Subway Go downstairs to the tracks where you will board the next train. Stand behind the yellow lines (these arrows indicate where the doors will be located on the subway car) and board the subway from the left or right side of the door (you will learn quickly not to board from the center as this is the exit route). All of the stops are identified in Hangul and in English with numbers. Pay attention, some announcements are made in Korean and English, but you can easily miss your stop. Look at the big center number at the stop, the name of the station will be listed there as well. The smaller numbers to the left and right of center tell where you've come from and where you are going. All of the subway lines are color-coded. A line change stop is signified by the multi-colored swirl on the map. Once you get the hang of it, you will be hooked. If you end up going the wrong direction, just get off at the next stop and go over to the opposite track and hop on that train. If you feel lost or confused you can always ask someone. Koreans are very helpful and will do all they can to point you in the right direction.

When you reach your destination follow the crowd up the steps and turn in your ticket at the turnstile. Pay attention to the exit numbers. Each station usually has numerous exits each leading to different areas. Refer to your map or look for the directory in each station, it will inform you (in English) which exit you will need. The Koreans that ride the subway are very quiet. Most read or sleep so try to be respectful of there customs. During rush hour, it can become quite congested. Another important thing to know is that there are designated areas at the end of each subway car that are reserved for pregnant women and the elderly. You may sit in this area if no one fitting that description needs the seat. NOTE: The subway closes at midnight. You will be forced to leave the subway at that time, regardless of your destination or present location. The subway website is www.smrt.co.kr/english_smrt/index.jsp Click on the English link and then Cyber Station. To plan your trip from home go to www.seoulmetro.co.kr and click on English in the top right corner.

Trains - Riding the train in Korea is a wonderful way to discover Korea without having to worry about traffic or car problems in an unfamiliar area. A ticket office is located at the Commercial Travel Office, 2nd floor of the Moyer Community Activity Center. There are several different trains to choose from, although the Blue (Sae-ma-eul) Train is the fastest and most comfortable way to get to Daejeon, Taegu and Pusan. It costs a little more, but it is more comfortable and it does not make any other stops. The green and orange lines will take you to the in between stops, so be prepared for a longer ride. You can also purchase tickets at Seoul Station located just outside the subway stop of the same name. There is a line designated for foreigners. For more information about the Korean National Railroad visit www.korail.go.kr and click on English.

TRAVEL SERVICES

Post Travel Services

Post Community Activities Centers and USO offices offer information on travel in Korea and abroad. Popular destinations in Asia include China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan and Thailand. Ask about packages and group tours. Those stationed in Korea can also check out Space-A travel options available from Osan Air Force Base.

USAG-HUMPHREYS TOUR AND TRAVEL CENTER

Location: See USO in the CAC

Telephone: 753-7151/7157

Hours of Operation: As Posted

Services: Provides schedules of monthly tours, hotel reservations, airline tickets, and in country and out of country tours.

Delta Airlines 753-7724

Korean Airlines 753-7279

Northwest Airlines 753-7725

United Airlines 753-7726

USAG-YONGSAN TRAVEL SERVICES

USO TOURS

Location: USO at Camp Kim, Building 1224

Telephone: 724-7003/3301

Hours of Operation: M-F 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

USO Office, Moyer CAC, Building 2259

Telephone: 723-4102/4130

Hours of Operation: M-Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

US Airline Alliance (Travel Packages)
Location: Dragon Hill Lodge, Building 4050
Telephone: 738-2222 ext 6800
Hours of Operation: M-Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Delta Airlines 754-1921
Northwest Airlines 732-1700
United Airlines 757-1691
American Airlines 734-8820

USAG-RED CLOUD COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CENTERS

Red Cloud 732-6246
Camp Casey 730-4601/4602
Camp Stanley 732-5366
Camp Hovey 730-5125

USAG-DAEGU COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTERS

Daegu 764-5919/4123
Camp Carroll 765-7484
Camp Walker 764-4123

SPACE-A TRAVEL

To sign-up for space available travel send an e-mail message with the following information to OsanSpaceA@Osan.af.mil:

- Name (Last, First, MI)
- Grade
- SSN (optional; no longer required)
- Branch of service
- Local phone number

- Number of required seats
- Travel category
- Date leave began (Note: You must be on leave to sign-up for Space-A)
- Date leave ends
- Country choices (List up to 5; one choice may be "ALL")
- Names of dependents traveling and type of passport (U.S. or foreign)

Points of Contact:

Baggage Service - 784-2248

Passenger Service Center - 784-1854/6883 (Call for flight schedules)

For more information visit www.osan.af.mil.

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USAG-DAEGU Daegu is one of the largest cities in Korea. Major tourist attractions include Mt. Biseulsan Provincial Park and Mt. Palgongsan Provincial Park. The azalea and purple eulalia blossoms of Mt. Biseulsan Park offer exquisite views during the spring and fall months. Other nearby attractions include Daegu National Museum, Donghwasan Temple and the Daegu Medicine Market.

Lodging

Camp Walker Lodge Call DSN 764-5536

Calling from the U.S. 011-82-54-475-6213

DSN Fax 764-5535

Calling from the States Fax 011-82-53-470-5535

Camp Carroll Lodge Call DSN 765-7722

Calling from the U.S. 011-82-54-970-7722 DSN Fax 765-8058

Golf

Camp Walker Driving Range Open daily

Golf Course Evergreen Club Open daily 0530-1900, call 764-4601

Bowling

Walker Bowling Center Short Order Items Sun-Thurs 1130–2230

Fri-Sat 1130-0100, call 764-4334

Carroll Bowling Center Mon-Thurs 1100–1300 and 1600-2230

Fri 1100-1300 and 1600-0100 Sat 1500-0100 Sun 1500-2230, call 765-8409

Post Clubs:

Camp Walker Evergreen 764-4060 and Hilltop 764-4985

Camp Henry Henry's Place 768-7300

Camp Carroll Hideaway Club 765-8574

OFF POST ATTRACTIONS

Daegu National Museum was built to preserve and exhibit the unique cultural heritage of Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-do province. It featuring an Archeology Gallery containing relics from the Neolithic Era to Korea's Three Kingdoms period, an Art History Gallery focused on the Buddhist culture of Daegu, and the Traditional Folk Life Gallery, where visitors can see traditional Korean houses.

Transportation Info:

Address: 70, Hwanggeum-dong, Suseong-gu, Daegu

At Daegu Train Station, take Bus No.349 or No.524.

At Daegu Express Bus Terminal, take Bus No. 514 or No. 814.

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Get off at Daegu National Museum

Contact Info:

Tel. +82-53-1330

www.tgmuseum.org

Admission:

Mar-Oct.: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.(7 p.m. on Sat, Sun, Holiday)

Nov-Feb. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed: Jan. 1, Every Monday

Admission Fee:

Ages 25-64, 400 won /Ages 19-24, 200 won/Under 18 and Over 65,
Free

*Every first Sunday of month admission free for all.

Donghwasa Temple is located in Dohak-dong, Dong-gu, Daegu. It was built by monk Geuk-Dal in the 15th year of the Silla King SoJi's reign in 493. King HeungDeok renamed the temple "Donghwasa" during his reign. It means "even during the winter season, the paulownia tree still blooms."

Transportation Info:

From Daegu Station(Daegu Subway exit No.3), take City Bus No.105 coming every 10 Min. or No.131 coming every 1 Hour to get off at Donghwasa Mass Facility Area (Travel Time: 1 Hour) then walk 7-8 minutes.

Taxi takes 40 - 45 minutes from Daegu Station to Donghwasa Temple, 20 minute ride from Daegu Airport.

Contact Info:

Tel. +82-53-985-0980

Open from Sunrise to Sunset

Admission:

19 and over – 2,500 won / Ages 13-18 – 1,500 won / Ages 12 and under – 1,000 won

Daegu Medicine Market in Namseong-dong, Jung-gu, Daegu, is a major herbal medicine market specializing in Joseon Era medicine practices. Herb farmers, collectors, sellers and buyers line the streets. There are about 50 herbal medicine stores, 25 herbal clinics, 85 herbal doctors and 20 ginseng stores. It was the first Medicine Wholesale Market in Korea. At the exhibition on the 2nd floor of the wholesale market you can get baskets used to collect herbs, 'yakjanggi' to store herbs, scales, and old books of herbal Medicine.

Transportation Info:

Walk 20 minutes from the Daegu Train Station

Take bus No. 439 or No. 535 from East Daegu Train Station (5 min travel time) or take the subway and get off at the Jungangno Station. (5 min travel time).

Contact Info:

Tel. +82-53-661-3324

<http://www.herbmart.or.kr>

Hours (Monday- Friday) 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (Saturday) 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Closed Sundays and holidays

USAG (UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON)-Humphreys, Camps Long and Eagle, and the facilities at Suwon AB are undergoing vast changes with better accommodation and services to U.S. military members and their families. Humphreys offers a unique range of activities on post such as paintball, laser tag and swimming at the installation water park.

Lodging Billeting Office Location: Bldg. T247 Telephone: 753-7355

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m.-noon

Bowling Humphreys Bowling Center Hours of Operation Tue-Thu 4-10 p.m. Fri-Sat 11-1 a.m. Sun 11 a.m.-10p.m. 753-5722

Long Shot Bowling Mon 5-10 p.m. Thu 3-10 p.m. Fri 5-10 p.m.
Sat-Sun 3-10 p.m. 721-3336

Golf Driving Range Tues - Sun 11 a.m. – 10 pm. 754-6291

Post Clubs

Camp Humphreys Tommy D's 753-7532 Alaska Mining Co.
753-3101 Macgregor's Market 753-7532
Camp Eagle Eagle's Nest 721-2277

On-Post Attractions

Laser Tag is a new attraction at Humphreys. The facility is located in Building 1044 adjacent to Soldiers Park. The hours are Wed-Sun 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sat-Sun 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 753-3013 during the above hours.

Splish N Splash Water Park is located on post and features water-slides and plenty of space to swim. The pool opens in May, seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

USAG- RED CLOUD The northern region of South Korea is flanked by sea and mountains. The land is full of natural attractions, including botanical gardens, beaches, rafting and skiing opportunities. For upcoming outdoor adventures contact the USO or local BOSS representative.

Lodging

Camp Carroll Army Lodging Phone: 011-82-54-970-7722 DSN: (315) 765-7722 Fax: 011-82-54-970-8058 www.mwr.korea.army.mil
Camp Casey Army Lodging Phone: 011-82-31-8694247 DSN: (315)

730-4247 Fax: 011-82-31-8694247 www.mwr.korea.army.mil
Camp Humphreys Army Lodging Phone: 011-82-31-690-7355 DSN:
(315) 753-7355 Fax: 011-82-31-690-8389 www.mwr.korea.army.mil
Camp Walker/Henry Army Lodging Phone: 011-82-53-470-5536
DSN: (315) 764-5536 Fax: 011-82-470-5535
www.mwr.korea.army.mil

Post Clubs

Camp Casey: Gateway Club, 730-3400 Redwood Steak House,
730-2195 Warrior's Club, 730-2195 Camp Castle: Warrior's Club,
730-3400 Camp Hovey: Iron Triangle, 730-5167 Red Cloud:
CG's Mess, 732-8797 Mitchell's, 732-8189 Camp Stanley: Reggie's,
732-5485

Golf

Camp Casey: Indianhead Golf Course Tee times are 8 a.m.-4 p.m.,
Restaurant Hours are 6 a.m.- 8 p.m. 730-4885
Camp Red Cloud: CRC Golf Course Winter Hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Summer hrs. are Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-Dusk Saturday-Sunday/Holidays
5:30 a.m.-Dusk
732-6843

Bowling

Camp Casey

Bowling Canter: Orion's Sun-Thu 11a.m.-11 p.m. Fri-Sat 11 .am.-
noon 730-4577

Hovey Bowling Center: Short Order Items Mon/Wed/Thu 4-10 p.m. Fri
5 p.m.-midnight Sat 1-11 p.m. Sun 1-10 p.m. 730-5167

Red Cloud Bowling Center: Short Order Items Sun-Thu 11a.m.-11
p.m. Fri-Sat 11 a.m.-midnight 732-6930

Stanley Bowling Center: Short Order Items Sun-Thu 11a.m -10 p.m.
Fri-Sat 11 a.m.-11 p.m. 732-5370

Off-post Attractions

In addition to the natural sights, this region also offers Korea's demilitarized zone is one of the top attractions in Korea. As one of the last relics of the Cold War, the DMZ offers unique insight into the Armistice and the US/ROK Alliance. Visitors can get a bird's-eye-view of North Korea from the observation deck, explore the tunnels dug by North Korea and witness what it's like to patrol one of the world's most heavily fortified borders. For information on DMZ tours, contact the USO office or website.

USAG(UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON)-Yongsan is located in the heart of Seoul. The surrounding city offers an array of entertainment and cultural venues. From international cuisine and movie theaters to malls and outdoor markets, there's always something to do.

Lodging

Dragon Hill Lodge - Located on Yongsan's South Post, makes it easy for people arriving or preparing to leave Korea. The hotel provides laundry facilities, restaurants, in-room kitchenettes, TV's/VCR's, video rentals and a shopping arcade. Guests of this facility find its central location and affordability very convenient. Should space not be available at the Dragon Hill Lodge, the staff will direct and assist you in getting to any one of a number of quality hotels located a short distance away.

Billeting On Post Walker Center 736-1048, Religious Center 723-7314, US Embassy Association Suites Bldg. 8105, 02-397-4487 or 738-6124

Golf Sung Nam Golf Course Full Service: Lunch, Dinner, Breakfast served Sat/Sun/Holidays Daily 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m. 736-3483

Yongsan Driving Range & Mini Putt Daily 7 a.m.-9 p.m. 738-4190

Bowling- Yongsan Lanes Sun 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Mon, Th 11 a.m.- 10 p.m. Tues Closed Wed 4-10 p.m. Fri 10 a.m. – midnight Sat 10 – 1a.m. 723-7830
K-16 Please call for hours 741-6473

Post Clubs FED Compound East Gate Club 721-7438 K-16
Community Club 741-6830
Yongsan Commiskey's 736-3969 Harvey's Lounge 738-5365
Main Post Club 730-5678

Off –Post Attractions

Itaewon is a popular shopping district where eastern and western influences collide. It remains Seoul's largest multicultural district and is a virtual magnet for shoppers on the hunt for styles and sizes reminiscent to what they would find back home. Itaewon offers everything from athletic apparel, outdoor hiking gear, luggage, tailor-made suits, accessories, and baseball caps to a dizzying array of antiques and traditional souvenirs. Itaewon shopping district is a short walk out the gate by the gas station or a 5-minute taxi ride from USAG-Yongsan.

Deoksugung Palace

See the daily changing of the guard ceremony performed in front of this palace, located in downtown Seoul. Deoksugung Palace is famous for its elegant stone-wall road. It is the only one that has western buildings beside it and it adds to the uniqueness of the scenery. Deoksugung Palace originally belonged to Wolsandaegun (1454~1488), the older brother of King Seongjong (1469~1494) of the Joseon Dynasty. Transportation: 5-1 Jeong-dong, Jung-gu, Seoul Tel +82-2-1330/+82-2-771-9952 or visit www.deoksugung.go.kr Mar. -Oct.: 9:00 a.m. -9:00 p.m. Closed Mondays Admission: 19 and over, 1,000 won / 7~18 years old, 500 won / 6 and under, free. Palace

Sumunjang Exchange Ceremony Date: January-December 2007 (except Mondays or when the temperature is less than -5 degree) Hours: 11a.m. / 2 p.m. / 3:30 p.m.

USO (United Service Organization)- The USO has been in Korea since 1954. It provides a lounge, snack bar, Cross Cultural School, Good Neighbor Program, language classes, information/referral/out-reach services, and is an excellent source for wonderful tours not only around Seoul but also overnight package tours to many popular areas in Korea. For fantastic trips around Asia, check in with Apple Tours which is located in the USO right next to Camp Kim. The USO usually has a comprehensive group of helpful guidebooks and maps. Call 724-7003/3301, Commercial 02-795-3063/3028 or Moyer CAC call 724-7003. They are closed on Sundays. Log on to www.uso.org/korea for even more information.

V

VIDEO RENTAL – There are three locations to rent movies on post. South Post Video Rental is the largest store and carries movie snacks and magazines as well as movies to rent or buy. It is located beside the Fire Station on South Post, Bldg. 4209, 738-7222. The Dragon Hill Lodge Shoppette and the Mini-mall Shoppette carry a smaller selection of movies to rent in their stores. Hannam Village Video Store is located in Bldg. K, 723-4473.

VISAS - The best way to get accurate information on visas is to contact the relevant embassy several months prior to the time you are interested in traveling. Conditions are constantly changing around the world, so be prepared for some travel changes. Visas for group tours are arranged by the travel agent.

VISITORS TO KOREA - You will certainly want friends and relatives to visit you while you are in Korea. Visitors will need a valid passport. A Korean visa is not required if their period of stay in Korea is 30 days or less. For longer visits, a ninety-day Korean visa must be obtained before arrival in Korea. Before your visitors purchase airline tickets, be sure to check with travel agents in Korea (both on and off post). Often they will be able to provide you with cheaper fares on flights from the U.S. to Korea. You should also look into the Reunion in Korea program (see REUNION IN KOREA.) It is a wonderful program that enables active duty American service personnel and U.S. Department of Defense civilian employees to bring their family members to Korea at an affordable cost. (Certain months during the year)

Your visitors will need to have a pass issued so they may have access to the post. Prior to their arrival you can stop by the Law and Order office located at the Headquarters USAG-Yongsan Bldg 4305, Room

V

105 (all the way in the right back corner of the building on the first floor), 738-4612 (take the road that is behind the Dragon and down the big hill till it dead ends and the building is on your left, the Legal Assistance Office is to the right) and pick up an application for a temporary post pass. You will need to fill out the form and return it to the Pass and ID office. It will take about three working days for the form to be approved. You will need to specify the dates you would like the pass to be valid (up to 30 days). Once the form has been approved you will need to return to the same building to pick up the signed form, at this time you can also pick up a letter that will allow your visitors to access the PX and the Chosun Gift shop when you accompany them. All of this can be done before your visitors arrive.

After your visitors have arrived in the country you will need to bring the completed paperwork, your visitors and their passports to the Pass and ID section of the Provost Marshal's Office located in Building 1230 on Camp Kim. Visitors must be present to have their thumbprint scanned for the new BIDS system. They will also have their picture taken and will be issued a pass valid for their entire stay. The office is opened M-F 0800-1800 except holidays. If your visitors arrive after hours or on a weekend you will be able to sign them on post for a 24 hour period. You will need to re-sign them in every 24-hours until you obtain a pass for them. To sign someone on post you will need to bring them to a designated gate (this can vary so be sure to check for current sign-in gates) Your visitors will need some form of identification that verifies citizenship (Korean ID or U.S. Passport etc.) Your visitor will be given a pass and their ID will be retained (US citizens will be allowed to keep their passport but will need to provide another form of identification such as a driver's license that will be retained.) One final note, visitors should contact their insurance company and add a special rider to their policy in the event that they need hospital care. If necessary, visitors not eligible for military benefits will be hospitalized in Korean hospitals. In some cases, Medicaid has refused to pay for hospitalization.

W

WATER - The water on post is considered safe for drinking. However, many residents choose to purchase bottled water for consumption. Bottled water is available by the bottle or case at the Commissary. Another option is home delivery by Diamond Pure Water. They deliver weekly both on and off post. They have an office on Yongsan Main Post in the PX. To schedule delivery, call 724-7567. Office hours are 10am to 6p.m. Tuesday-Sunday.

WEATHER - The weather in Seoul is much like the weather in Washington D.C. or Philadelphia...very cold winters and hot, humid summers. Korea does have a monsoon season in mid to late summer when it seems to do nothing but rain. In 1990 and 1998, the rains resulted in devastating floods, which killed many Koreans and left thousands homeless. Take flood warnings seriously. The terrain here is very hilly and rain water gathers quickly at times in certain areas. The spring is beautiful, particularly with the cherry trees lining the streets it looks like its snowing. So many colorful flowers bloom. It's a great time to get out and sightsee. In autumn, there are lovely colors all around, crisp clear skies and many opportunities to go for a mountain hike to see autumn in all its' glory. Winter brings enough snow for mountain skiing.

W

Z

ZOO - There are many petting zoos and animal attractions in Seoul. Please see TRAVEL IN KOREA section in this book.

Z

SHOPPING & RESTAURANTS IN SEOUL

Shopping

Keep a few simple guidelines in mind

□ This chapter of the book is just an overview a newcomer's glance at what is in Seoul. If you want more in depth information be sure to look for local books and magazines with more details.

□ ALWAYS know the exchange rate between dollars and won before you shop. You may be able to get a better value by using one currency over the other, depending on current economic conditions. Be aware that if you pay by credit card, the currency exchange rate is in the seller's favor.

□ Many U.S. banks now charge service fees for use of their cards overseas. Contact your bank for more information on this practice. It's generally easier (and cheaper) to shop with cash, whether dollars or won.

□ If you find an item you like but are not prepared to buy at that time, ask the merchant for a business card so you can find the store again.

□ Also, if you really like the items and prices at a particular store, ask for extra cards to refer your friends. Many times, merchants will give discounts for your word-of-mouth referrals.

□ Shopping bags are not free at grocery and some department stores. It's best to come prepared with some sturdy bags or a rolling cart if you plan to make many purchases.

□ New stores open all the time and some old favorites may move or go out of business, so ask your neighbors, colleagues, and American and Korean friends to recommend shops that cater to your interests.

□ With the exception of some food and flower markets, most stores do not open before 10 a.m., and many markets are closed on a par-

ticular weekday, so check before you go. The last week of July and the first week of August is traditionally vacation time, meaning that many markets will be almost completely closed for a few days or even a week.

□ MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE AFSC WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST SHOPPING GUIDES - WWW.AFSCKOREA.ORG

What to buy

The following list, though certainly not complete, is a listing of some types of products available here in Korea:

Antiques - For those interested in Oriental antiques, Korea offers some of the best shopping in the region. Oriental “treasures” are everywhere. Visit a variety of shops over a period of several weeks. Ask questions! Reputable dealers will tell you if a piece has been repaired, what wood it is made from, where it originated in Korea, and how old it is. If you are looking at antique pieces, look for bamboo nails, tongue-in-groove joints, and cut-out or etched fittings and locks. When you purchase an antique piece, ask the shop owner for a certificate of authenticity that will describe the piece, list the materials and decorative metals used to make it, and detail its usage and measurements. ALWAYS negotiate on the price! Keep your receipt, the certificate, and a picture of your antiques in case of damage or loss.

There are four major areas for antique shopping in Seoul:

□ **Insadong**, or “Mary’s Alley”, is located downtown between the U.S. Embassy and Pagoda Park. It can be reached easily by using the subway. Get off at the Anguk Station, Line 3. (Take exit 6 and walk

about 50 feet straight ahead, then turn left. Or just follow the crowds!) 41% of Korea's antique shops are located here. It's a great place to shop for antiques or visit art galleries. There are many good tea shops and restaurants down side streets in this area. On Sunday afternoons, the streets are closed to vehicle traffic and shopkeepers set up outside, along with various entertainers and artists. It's a great place to spend a Sunday afternoon with the family. A new cultural space called Ssamziegil opened December of 2004. Ssamziegil is a mall with handicrafts as its theme. This space was planned by fashion accessory maker Ssamzie. An area of three stores were forced to close, due to economics in the area, Ssamzie rebuilt this building, which now consists of 6 floors, housing 70 shops that are all connected by a long spiral path that leads to the Sky Park on the top floor, offering views of the streets below. This mall is located on the left, down toward the middle of the long main street.

□ **Changan-Dong** is located beyond the end of the elevated highway after turning right at the East Gate (Dongdaemun). This is near the Shindap Station, Line 2, or can be reached by car or taxi. You will recognize the area by the large stone statues and grinding wheels out front. The bottom floors of two buildings have one antique shop after another. Some of the shops specialize in certain items, but more of the shops offer a variety of items, both small and large. Prices and quality vary.

□ **Hannam-Dong** is located beyond the fire station in Itaewon and is the most easily accessible and well-known area. Most shops have reproductions in the front and better antiques in the rear. Generally, the shopkeepers speak excellent English, which can be a big factor in making a purchase. Go often, to look and compare. The shops are constantly replenishing their inventory. Ask if the shop has more items; there is often an upstairs or downstairs area which you would never find on your own.

□ **Janganpyeong Antique Art Market** is located between Dapsimini Station 542 exit and Janghanpyeong Station 543 exit, purple line 5. If you like flea markets interspersed with fine antiques and a few nice shops, this is the destination for you! Local knowledge is that furniture retailers purchase wholesale from this market. Also referred to as Dapsimini, there are three different buildings – Songhwa, Woosung, and Samhoe. English is not spoken here, so negotiating can be challenging.

□ **Hwanghak-dong Flea Market** is located on a few blocks under the Chung-gye elevated road, take subway Line 1 to Jongno 5 Station 129. Open daily 8am to 6:30pm. This is Korea's oldest flea market going all the way back to the Korean War. So you can imagine the antique books dating more than one hundred years old, ceramics, old LPs, and so much more. The famous saying goes, "If you can't find it at Hwanghak-dong, you won't be able to find it anywhere else!" The market has close to 1,000 shops selling hard to find antiques and second hand goods.

□ **Minsok Gol-dong-Pum Market** is located near the Hwanghak-dong flea market. You can find antiques, character statues (like the one in Itaewon across the street from the McDonalds), kitchenware, old books, old accessories, etc. Directions: Take the Noksapyeong (brown line) subway to Sindang. Take Sindang way out. You will pass a wedding hall before you exit out of the subway. Once outside, go immediately to the left across the steps. Go behind the row of doors for sell. You will be in the market ready to explore the shop for hidden treasures.

Art - There are several areas in Seoul to purchase art or browse in the galleries. Just outside Gate 1 (Daehango Street), you can find inexpen-

sive art galleries that frame your purchases and create custom art from photographs. Park your vehicle just past the PX and walk out Gate 1, turn left, and follow the line of art galleries. There are also galleries located in the following areas: Downtown Galleries Line 1 to City Hall Station 132, Line 3 to Gyeongbokgung Station 327, Insadong Galleries take line 3 to Anguk Station 328.

Bookstores - The Main PX on Yongsan carries a wide variety of books and magazines, as does the **Osan Air Base BX**

Kyobo Bookstore in the basement of the Kyobo building located just two buildings south of the American Embassy in downtown Seoul. To get there by subway, take Line 5, get off at Gwanghwamun Station, and take Exit 3. There is a large sign for the bookstore at this exit, which leads you immediately into the store. The foreigner's section here is excellent and some of the "coffee table" books are truly beautiful, though expensive. There is an entire section devoted to dictionaries for translating English and Korean. Within the "foreigner's section" is a very large wall of travel books (including the Lonely Planet and Seeing Eye series), and books on teaching English. Another good bookstore is **Jongno Book Center**. It is just across the street from the YMCA Hotel. Take subway Line 1, Jongno 3 Station 130, Exit 4. Another local bookstore is **Seoul Selection**, located near the American Embassy, Line 5, Gwanghwamun Station near exit 2. It is on the east side of Gyeongbokgung Palace, across from the parking lot. (Contact information - web site: www.seoulselection.com; e-mail: selector@seoulselection.com; telephone: 734-9567) **Bandi and Lunis** is located inside the COEX mall take Line 2 to Samsung Station 219, exit 6.

Celadon - This uniquely Korean art form has evolved into some of the most beautiful ceramics available anywhere in the Orient. The cela-

don wares of the Koryo Dynasty, produced in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, surprised even the highly cultured Chinese. Koryo celadon pieces are now praised as rare art forms. Prices range from a few dollars for a small, inexpensive copy to thousands of dollars for an original work by one of the current “living treasures,” a designation given by the government to masters of ancient Korean arts. Pottery can be purchased at pottery villages, Insadong, the Hwanghakdong Flea Market, or at festivals. The Icheon Pottery Village and the Yeosu Pottery Village are the most famous. A beautiful shop in Itaewon is Eden Pottery 02-793-0828. It is across the street from McDonalds and up a little way. Look for the sign because it is in a basement and just has the staircase leading down. What beautiful and special treasures you will find here. This shop is a little more expensive than the souvenir shops around it, but the quality of the pieces is quite evident. Ms. Kim is very knowledgeable and wraps beautifully. This is the place to get a special piece of Korean pottery.

Clothing – There are many clothing shops that offer great prices. However, if you are larger than a size 8, you may have trouble finding clothing in Korea. Doota Mall has information about stores that carry larger sizes. Ask at the information booth on the ground floor and they will give you a slip of paper with list of store numbers. One good place to shop for formal gowns in all sizes is located in Itaewon over Gecko’s Bar (across the street from the Hamilton Hotel). Many military personnel have found that Korea is an excellent place to have a mess dress uniform custom made at a reasonable price. The tailor shop at the Dragon Hill Lodge is a good place to have uniforms and custom dress shirts made at a reasonable price (and they have the fabric already). The Military Clothing Sales Store (MCSS), located in the Mini-Mall on Main Post, carries fabrics and buttons authorized for these uniforms. If you go off post, you may need to purchase your own fabric. After the tailor has taken all the necessary measurements, have him tell you

how much fabric he will need to make the uniform. A man's jacket normally takes about 2 1/2 yards and the pants require about 1 1/2 yards. Check at the MCSS to make sure you have all the necessary trim and measurements for its placement. As is the case with so many things in Korea, word of mouth is a good way of finding out who specializes in this type of thing. Ask a friend who has been in Korea for a while where they had their uniform or custom suit made.

Tailors and Seamstresses- Selecting a good tailor from the hundreds available in Seoul is yet another one of those things where word of mouth is helpful. Most people who have been in Seoul for a few years have a favorite tailor, so when you see a person wearing a custom suit or uniform that you like, ask them who made it. After you select a tailor, make sure you select a fabric that will be compatible with the style you have chosen. Be sure to review all of the details of the garment (type of lapel, pocket flaps, cuffs, etc.) with the tailor so you will be pleased with the final product. Some places to shop for clothing include Department Stores, outlets, brand shops, Namdaemun and Dongdaemun Markets, Myongdong, Itaewon, and the stands in front of Ehwa Women's University offer a good selection. For pre-made Korean apparel, there are some sizing differences that you need to be aware of. Basically, the sizes are: 44=Extra Small, 55=Small, 66=Medium (about a size 8), 77=Large, 88=Extra Large. Pants are sized by the waist measurement in inches. Shoe sizes are the circled number on the sole. This is the metric length. If you measure your current American brand shoe and convert it to centimeters, you should be able to find your shoe size.

FLOWERS/PLANTS - There are literally hundreds, possibly even thousands, of flower vendors in Seoul. One of the major areas is the Namdaemun (South Gate) Market. Take the subway Line 4 to Hoehyeon Station (Station 425, Exit 5) and when you reach the street level, take

a right turn into the market on the Main Alley. The flower market will be on the third floor of a large building on your right, about 300 yards into the market. In Dongdaemun (East Gate), there is a market for landscaping materials, flowers, bushes, and trees. Take the subway Line 1 to Jongno 5(o)-ga (Station 129). Another convenient area is underground at the Banpo Express Bus Terminal. Although you will need to change lines to get there, the subway will take you directly to the terminal. Take Line 3 to the Express Bus Terminal (Station 339, Exit 1). The flower markets are on the 3rd floor and the basements. These markets close around lunch time. If your interests lie more with yard and houseplants, take the Chamsu Bridge (lower section of the Banpo Bridge) to the south side of the Han River. Go straight through the traffic light at the intersection of the Express Bus Terminal, Palace Hotel, and hospital. Go up the hill on the other side where you will see greenhouses lining the street on both sides. This is Hatonae or flower area. Seasonal yard plants are outside and houseplants are inside. Some of these plants are rare in Seoul and can be expensive, so always shop around and negotiate for price before purchasing. The Yangjae Flower Market is also a good place for yard and houseplants, gardening tools, and cut flowers. To get there, drive across the Hannam Bridge. Go straight until you reach Yangjae-dong. The flower market is a little bit out of town and is located on the right side of the road.

Frames - Many people choose to have artwork framed in Korea due to the relatively low cost. There are many places in Seoul that provide framing. The Gallery Frame Shop on Main Post has reasonable prices and the owners speak excellent English. They are familiar with the concept of double matting and work hard to accommodate American tastes. The Arts and Crafts Centers of every post offer custom matting and framing services for a reasonable fee as well, or you can do your own framing there. If you want to have items framed in town. There are approximately 30 shops located off post between Gate 1 and Gate 19.

Ginseng – Ginseng is Korea’s traditional medicinal herb. This herb, known by the Koreans as the “miraculous medicine” or “Koryo Ginseng, is believed to calm the mind and strengthen the body. You will see this in many places in Seoul. There are many forms including the root, tea, small can drinks, and even candy. It can be purchased at many markets in town, duty-free shops, and during regional ginseng festivals.

Hanbok - The Hanbok is the traditional Korean attire of both men and women. Hanboks can be very elaborate depending upon the fabric and handwork involved. They are still worn on official occasions, holidays such as Chusok, and for special family gatherings. If you are interested in having a Hanbok made, there are shops in both Itaewon, Dongdaemun (Line 4, Station 421, exit 9, in the five-story white building), and in Osan that can make you a unique memento of your Korean experience.

Jewelry - Korea, like most of Asia seems to abound with jewelry and their beautiful craftsmanship makes these articles very tempting buys. There are several important factors to remember when shopping for jewelry:

- Know which countries specialize in what type of precious stones in order to get the best price. Korea’s specialties are amethyst and topaz.
- The Post Exchange - The PX carries a variety of jewelry from different parts of Asia. It is always a good idea to check out their selection and prices. They always stand behind the products they sell and you may wish to eliminate any doubt when purchasing a high dollar item like fine jewelry. Also you will be able to use your DPP payment plan or major credit card.
- There are many fine jewelers in Seoul. Ms. Chong at All Seasons Jewelry in Itaewon offers many beautiful pieces and does custom work

at excellent prices. As with all things Korean, however, word of mouth advertising is the best way to go. Some shops specialize, so ask around.

Kimch'i Pots - If you are thinking of buying a brown-ware kimch'i pot, there are many places to buy them. Kimch'i pots make nice decorative crocks. A wide variety of Kimch'i pots are available right outside gate 3, also know as Kimch'i pot gate.

Leather - Another popular item in Korea is leather - whether in luggage, jackets, handbags, or shoes. There are many good values.

Musical Instruments - Many people have found good bargains in Seoul on various musical instruments. Nag Won Musical Instrument Arcade is located behind Tapgol Park (Pagoda Park) near Insadong, this large market has the widest variety and best selection of musical instruments, from piccolos to pianos; Korean-made guitars are a good buy. Take the subway to the Jonggak station (Line 1, Station 131, Exit 3).

Quilts and Fabric - Korea is a nation filled with fabric and garment manufacturers, and innovative entrepreneurs here do not let a scrap go to waste. Thus, the Korean quilting industry was born literally from the remnants of other work. Today, however, it has evolved into a thriving industry in its own right. You can spend from a few dollars to several hundred on a Korean quilt. Try Dongdaemun Market for fabrics and quilts. You will be amazed at the sheer volume available. You can buy fabric by the yard, notions, tassels, thread, zippers...really anything you can imagine. As far as the quilts, most of the Korean quilts are done by machine and made of washable fabrics, while some are done by hand in creative fabrics. Shop around for the best prices and quality. Most shops will make a standard style to your color specifica-

tions. You can also check on base for quilting groups or classes if you would like to make your own.

Other Items – Some other popular Korean items to shop for include lacquer ware, paper craft called Hanji, Calligraphic works and paintings, paper fans, masks, teas, and fashion accessories.

Where to Buy

There are so many shopping opportunities in Seoul. The listing below is by no means complete, but it's a good place to begin your Korean shopping adventures. The locations are broken down into three categories: Markets, Shopping Districts, and Department Stores. A trip to a department store or a shopping district can be great fun.

Markets - Korea is world famous for its shopping markets. Exploring these markets can be the adventure of a lifetime. There are many markets in Seoul and surrounding areas. The following covers the four major markets frequented by the Yongsan community:

□ **Namdaemun (South Gate Market)** - This market, located just down the hill from the Hilton Hotel and across from Seoul Station, is a unique cornucopia of clothing, jewelry, appliances, dishes, folk art, flowers, gift bags, stationery items, and foods. The market, which opened in 1414 as a government market, serves as a manufacturer outlet and as such, it opens at 0200 and doesn't close until 1800. The market is easily accessible by taking the subway to Hohyeon Station (Line 4, Station 425, exit 5) or you can pay to park in the underground lot up the hill at the Hilton Hotel. If you would like to walk from Yong-

san, park on Camp Coiner near Gate 20 and take a left out the gate. You can walk to the Hilton and then down to the market. One of the best features in Namdaemun is the wholesale flower market. Maps of the market area are available at information booths located on the main arteries in the market. Alpha Store is located on Stationery Alley and has a great variety of craft and art supplies. www.enamdaemun.com (Korean language only). See Map in Back.

□ **Dongdaemun (East Gate Market)** - This is the largest of the shopping markets in Seoul and possibly the most popular with both Koreans and foreigners. It is located, as the name suggests, in the eastern sector of the city and can be easily reached by subway. Dongdaemun Stadium (Station 422) and Dongdaemun (Station 421) are on Line 4. It is also possible to drive and park in the area for a fee. The market is past Seoul Station and is well marked on roadmaps of Seoul. Dongdaemun is famous for a variety of things including fabric, sweaters, lingerie, shoes, sports equipment, clothing, Korean bedding, jackets, sweat suits, leather jackets, toys, and much more. **Toy Alley** is a favorite stop, with toys, stationery, craft items, and more (Dongmyo Station, Line 6, Station 636, Exit 6 – to the left of the building as you come out). Birthday gifts and party favors are fun to find here, as well as gift bags and cool school supplies. The **Fabric Market** outside Dongdaemun Station (Line 4, Station 421, Exit 9) is a five-story white building full of fabrics and notions of every imaginable sort. It is over-whelming so plan to spend some time here. The market is closed every other Sunday. **Doota Mall** has information about stores that carry larger sizes. Ask at the information booth on the ground floor and they will give you a slip of paper with list of store numbers.

□ **Yongsan Electronics Market** - This market is located in Yongsan-gu, an easy walk out Gate 19 (turn left at the traffic signal and follow the signs). If you are driving, exit Gate 19, turn left at the light and im-

mediately get in the right lane and make a right turn at the next traffic signal. The lanes are confusing, so pay attention. Go straight, taking the underpass in front of you, and then turn left at the first traffic signal you see after the underpass. The market is 300 yards on the left, behind Yongsan train station and E-Mart. There is a parking lot behind the building. This building houses enough computers, stereos, cameras, and general electronic gadgets to keep an electronics whiz busy for days, possibly even months. However, do not just shop in the main building. The entire market consists of more than two dozen buildings.

Shopping Districts

□ **Itaewon** - This area is located conveniently outside Gate 12 (by the gas station) and across the street. It is a good place for your first shopping venture off post. Many of the vendors speak English, and the market is not quite as overwhelming as some of the larger markets in Seoul. You can find numerous items in Itaewon, such as clothing, shoes, travel bags, luggage, leather and eel skin goods, brass, antiques, and reproductions. Also, be sure not to miss the underground section of shops called The Underground about a block up from McDonalds and to the right across from The Bag Man shop. Some shops take U.S. dollars, but exchange rates can vary from store to store. Further up the main street in Itaewon there is a wonderful art museum called the Samsung Museum of Art. You would never know it is hiding on a side street directly across from Dragon Antiques.

□ **Myong-dong** - This area is one of the busiest and most fashionable shopping districts in Seoul. The narrow streets and alleys contain hundreds of clothing and accessory boutiques, shoe stores, tailors and dressmakers, huge department stores, specialty shops, and the Myong-dong Cathedral. This district stretches about a mile in any direction from Myong-dong Station so everything is within walking distance. Take the subway Line 4, Myong-dong Station 424, Exit 7 or

8. There are many good restaurants here that represent the best of Eastern and Western popular establishments.

□ **Apgujeong** - This area, south of the Han River in Gangnam-gu, is a trendy, upscale fashion district with luxury apartments. You will find department stores, clothing stores, shoe shops, and boutiques. There are also numerous restaurants, cafés, coffee houses, nightclubs, cinemas, theaters, and other entertainment spots. This area can be reached by taking the subway to either the Apgujeong or Sinsa Stations (Line 3, Stations 336 and 337). There are some names of stores you will recognize including The Body Shop (one of many around town) and The Build-A-Bear store. For directions to Build-A-Bear (a block away from Hard Rock Café) see their website at www.buildabear.com it has a printable map that you can give to your taxi. Check the rate first though.

□ **EWHA Women's University and Sinchon** – These two areas are very close to one another. Both areas are fast becoming the new fashionable place to shop. Line 2 EWHA Women's University Station 241, Line 2, look for exit that takes you near the actual University. The streets fan out from there. The area feels quaint, like a small college town. Lots of fun little shops, hair salons, and small restaurants dot this area. Sinchon is supposed to be the up and coming Myong-dong. With many universities adjacent to it, Sinchon has been called “street of youth” Why else would they have the first Krispy Kreme donuts in Seoul there? Theatres line up along Sinchon Station. Check out this area too by taking Line 2, Sinchon Station 240. There is a lot to learn about both of these areas.

Department Stores - The Korean department stores are not only an excellent and entertaining way to learn what products are available, but also to help give you a glimpse at the Korean way of life. While

featuring the finest and most expensive items, the department stores are almost a microcosm of Korean society. Most contain grocery stores and restaurants, and one, the huge Lotte World Department Store on the south side of the Han River, has an amusement park and museum within its confines. Someone is usually available to answer your questions in English.

□ **COEX Mall** - Everything can be found at this enormous shopping complex. In addition to the endless stores you will find restaurants, food courts, clubs, an aquarium, and a movie theater. There's a lot to see, so be prepared to spend the entire day. It is easy to access from Samseong Station (Line 2, Station 219, Exit 6).

□ **Galleria Department Store** - This department store is located on the south side of the river near the Olympic complex. From Riverside Drive (Highway 88), turn right at the next bridge past Hannam Bridge named Dongho Bridge, turn left at the first traffic light. Hangang is a large white building with wide steps leading up to it on your left at the next traffic light. There is a great supermarket in the basement. The closest subway stop is Line 3 to Apgujeong Station 336, Exit 2. Expect a 15-minute walk, or take a taxi. There is another branch of this store at Seoul Station (Line 4, Station 426).

□ **Lotte Department Store** - There are numerous locations for the Lotte Department Store in Seoul. They are good place to learn about Korean products. The main location can be found by subway. Go to the Jamsil station (Line 2 or 8, Station 216, Exit 3).

□ **Central City/Shinsegae** – Located next to the Express Bus Terminal. In the basement of Shinsegae Department Store (similar to an American mall) is a Korean food court with great variety. There are many other places to shop in Central City. This is another shopping excursion that can take all day if you want to take advantage of all this area has to offer. Take the subway to the Express Bus Terminal (Line 3 or 7, Station 339, Exit 5 or 6).

□ **Printemps** - This is a branch of the famous Paris store and these products and prices are indicative of its heritage. It is an easy walk from the Line 3 Euljiro Sam (3)-ga Station 330.

□ **Hyundai Department Store** – located in Apgujeong (Line 3, Station 336), this is another beautiful department store with lots to offer.

□ **COSTCO** - Just like in the states, you can even find Kirkland's brand items in this Korean superstore. There is an annual membership fee, and it's a bit of a drive, but if you like to shop in bulk and get COSTCO deals, this is the place for you. The items in the store are geared toward the Korean shopper, so you will find different merchandise than what is available stateside. Go to the COSTCO Korea website at: www.costco.co.kr (click on English, then Locations for maps and written directions). The Yangjae location is right off the highway across from the flower market. There is a large parking garage on the premises. The COSTCO sign is the same as the stateside store and is visible from the highway.

□ **E-Mart** – This chain store has many locations throughout Seoul. The closest location to Yongsan is out Gate 19 in the basement of the Space 9 Building next to the Electronics Market. There is a parking garage or you can walk from Gate 19 to the subway entrance and go under to get on the other side of the street. You can't miss the building with a huge Space 9 sign. Look for the distinctive yellow E-Mart signs too. It's in the same building as Yongsan Station (Line 1, Station 135). This department store has everything from pet grooming, clothing, household items, to groceries. They even have a gimbap rolling machine, you can watch through the glass while the deli attendant rolls perfect gimbap. You can purchase many Korean food items ready to eat, including already marinated bulgogi and kalbi as well as frozen items like yaki-mandu and those yummy melon popsicles. They have many "mall type" restaurants on many floors and in the summer you can catch an open air concert and people watch. On the top floor there is a putt-putt golf center.

□ **Space 9** – Is an all in one shopping/entertainment complex. The name Space 9 revolves around the theme of the universe and the nine planet of the solar system. You will notice the futuristic décor. There are two structures called Digital Space and Fashion Space that are connected by two Restaurant Spaces. The nine story structure on the southern end of Space 9 is referred to as Digital Space is full of an assortment of goods, electronics, etc (including E-Mart). The top floor has an outdoor park fitted with a ramp for rollerblading and skateboarding. It has six floors of clothing and accessories and its rooftop will boast Air Park which will be the largest rooftop resting area in Seoul as of 2006. There is a quad area where the four structures meet that contains an Event Space. There is also an Multiplex movie theatre with three floors containing 11 different cinemas. It is so close to post...you should check it out.

Internet Shopping - There are many internet sites that ship to APO addresses. The following is a list of proven websites that are willing to ship to APO addresses:

AAFES	www.aafes.com	variety
ABE Book	www.abebook.com	books
Amazon	www.amazon.com	variety
Barnes & Noble	www.barnesandnoble.com	books, music, movies
Birthday	www.birthdayexpress.com	party supplies
Beauty Store	www.beauty.com	personal care
Crate and Barrel	www.crateandbarrel.com	home
Drugstore	www.drugstore.com	personal care
EToys	www.etoys.com	toys
The Gap	www.gap.com	clothing
ITS Toys	www.itstoys.com	toys
Jo Ann Fabrics	www.joann.com	craft supplies
JC Penney	www.jcpenney.com	variety

Land's End	www.landsend.com	clothing
L.L. Bean	www.llbean.com	clothing
Macy's	www.Macys.com	variety
Nordstrom	www.nordstrom.com	variety
Old Navy	www.oldnavy.com	clothing
Osh Kosh	www.oshkoshbgosh.com	child clothing
Payless	www.payless.com	shoes
Pixland	www.pixland.com	Electronics/frames
Pottery Barn	www.potterybarn.com	home
Sears	www.sears.com	variety
Sport's Authority	www.sportsauthority.com	sporting goods
Talbot's	www.talbots.com	clothing
Target	www.target.com	variety/discount
Victoria's Secret	www.victoriassecret.com	lingerie
Walmart	www.walmart.com	variety/discount
Williams-Sonoma	www.williams-sonoma.com	home
Zappos	www.zappos.com	shoes - free returns

Restaurants - There are many places to eat both on Yongsan Garrison and in Seoul, in all price categories. But, for orientating newcomers, the following information might be helpful:

Restaurants On Post

□ **AAFES Food Courts on Yongsan Garrison:** There are food courts located on South Post by the movie theater (South Post), Main Post at the PX (Townhouse), and Camp Coiner. Each food court has a variety of restaurants, as listed below:

- o **American Eatery** – Camp Coiner, Townhouse
- o **Anthony's Pizza** - South Post, Camp Coiner, Townhouse
Delivery available by calling 738-3086/3087.
- o **Baskin-Robbins** - South Post, Townhouse

- o **Burger King** – Townhouse.

The main restaurant is on South Post and contains a play place.

- o **Charley's Steakery** – South Post
- o **Starbucks** – Townhouse/ Embassy Hill
- o **Manchu Wok** - Townhouse
- o **Popeye's** - South Post, Townhouse. The main restaurant is on South Post. Delivery available by calling 738-3663/6228.
- o **Robin Hood** – Townhouse
- o **Taco Bell** - Townhouse

□ **Commiskey's** - Located on South Post, this family-style restaurant has two dining rooms, a seasonal patio dining area, and a bar. There is a diverse menu and daily lunch buffet. Take out service is available by calling 736-3968.

□ **Dragon Hill Lodge** – There are a variety of food choices, from fast food to formal dining. Call 738-2222 for more information and restaurant reservations.

□ **Greenstreet** – Casual dining for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with a buffet and menu choices all day. Located in the main lobby.

□ **The Oasis** – Tex-Mex grill and bar with a Korean twist! Casual dining for lunch and dinner, with daily buffet and specials. Located downstairs next to the deli/bakery.

□ **Sables** - An upscale restaurant for more formal evening dining with a great dessert buffet. Located in the main lobby. Reservations recommended. Closed Mondays.

□ **Pizza Hut** and **Subway** – Located downstairs. Call 738-7494 for delivery.

□ **Dragon Hill Deli and Bakery** – Offers a delightful array of baked goods, hot meals, and sandwiches for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Home of the famous Dragon Hill Donuts. Located downstairs.

□ **Sun Dae's** –has Mr.G's ice cream! It is wonderful and made fresh daily. Sun Dae's also offers your favorite cappuccino, pastries, candy and more. It is located next to Clippers Hair Salon on the Lobby Floor.

□ **Hartell House** - Located across the street from the Dragon Hill Lodge, this location offers a more formal dining atmosphere for both lunch and dinner. Everyone is welcome, memberships available. Member discounts apply for dining and other special events. Call 738-3872 for more information or to make reservations.

□ **Harvey's Lounge** – Located across the parking lot from the Dragon Hill Lodge. This lounge is a fun meet and greet place serving pub food and drinks with pool tables and darts. 738-5365

□ **KATUSA Snack Bars** - Located near Collier Field House on South Post (Bldg. 5211), Main Post (Bldg. 2667), and on Camp Coiner (Bldg. 1099), these are like a Korean cafeteria. KATUSA soldiers can eat here at a reduced rate, hence the name, but all are welcome. This is a great place to eat lunch on post and try new Korean dishes!

□ **Main Post Club** - Located on Main Post behind Moyer Community Activities Center (you can see the pyramid-shaped roof from the bridge. This club is open to everyone regardless of rank. Reggie's Restaurant offers lunch and dinner (the menu is like Applebee's and has the best burgers in town), and the Uptown Lounge is a pub. Call 723-5678 for hours of operation – they have odd hours, so call before you go.

□ **Moyer Community Activities Center** - Located on Main Post,

this is the main bus terminal. Anthony's Personal Pizza, Robin Hood, Baskin Robbins and Dunkin Donuts are available here.

□ **Navy Club** - Located on Main Post up the hill behind Memorial Chapel. This is a popular restaurant, which is open to everyone. They offer nightly specials with a wide variety of American dishes, weekly specials, and a Mongolian Barbecue on Saturday nights. Other activities include billiards, a small casino, and live entertainment nightly. For more information, call 725-7680. Parcheezi's Express delivers pizza and Navy Club menu items. Call 725-6108/6114.

US Embassy Association Center – Located on South Post up the hill behind Burger King. **Starbuck's Coffee**, and **Quiznos Subs**, and **Fuji-** (Japanese sushi and roll) are adjacent to the Embassy Association Center 797- 3854

Restaurants Off Post

Virtually any type of food you may prefer is available in Seoul. Prices vary according to the type of cuisine ordered. There is an abundance of good restaurants in Seoul as well as thousands of little carryout places or "sidewalk" tents where you can have a quick and inexpensive meal.

If you have adventurous taste buds, you will love experimenting with the foods in Seoul. Most restaurants have menus outside that show pictures and prices of food to help local diners and tourists. If a menu is not visible and you are concerned about prices, feel free to ask the hostess/host to see a menu before you are seated.

As with any nice restaurants around the world, many of the fine restaurants in Seoul have a dress code. If you are planning an evening

out, either check with someone who has been there before or call the restaurant to find out what is expected. But, remember you are in a different country, not everyone speaks the English language. Your best bet when going out to eat is to wear nice, casual attire that is comfortable. Wear shoes that are both comfortable for walking and easy to remove when you arrive.

Please enjoy the next few pages of restaurants.

□ **Bennigan's** - American style foods as well as Mexican and Italian dishes. There are many locations in Seoul. You can find location and menu information at their website (www.bennigans.co.kr), Location: Closest one is in the Seoul station subway line 1 or 4, exit number 1.

□ **Bangkok Thai** – This restaurant on the 3rd floor of the Daeil Building in Itaewon. Beautiful Thai décor and delicious authentic Thai food. Entrees are served in portions that are meant to be shared. Great for lunch or dinner. Moderately priced.
Location: Go down main road in Itaewon, go just past Burger King to the next intersection (fire station on the corner) and go right. Look up and to the left on this small street and you will see the gold sign with blue letters just up the staircase you will see the nice wood entrance.

□ **California Roll & Sushi** – This restaurant offers a wide variety of sushi that you can enjoy in the small stylish restaurant or order for takeout. Inexpensive.
Location – In Itaewon in the Coffee Bean Building 1st Floor, look for the colorful sign. Phone: 02-749-4277

□ **Casa J.J** – This restaurant serves incredible meat and fish dishes that will delight. Warm, intimate atmosphere.
Location : On hill toward Hyatt, on left side of street, can't miss the

ivy covered building. They do have parking, but you may want to take a taxi so you can enjoy their wonderful wine. Casa J.J 02-797-4343 www.casajj.co.kr and Jell Wine Shop 02-797-6846 www.jell-wine.co.kr (Wine tasting on Sundays)

□ **Carne Station** - All-you-can-eat Korean buffet that you cook yourself. Free drinks come with meal. Groups are welcome.

Location: There are two locations in Seoul www.carnestation.co.kr
Gangnam 02-557-1239 Myungdog 02-406-1239

□ **Chalet Swiss:** Location: It is across from the Itaewon Fire Station between Itaewon and the Hyatt Hotel. Moderately priced. Make reservations. Phone: 02-797-9664/02-796-6379

□ **Delizioso in Itaewon** – Italian Trattoria and Wine Bar, with a wide range of different food. You can eat it there, take away or order for a special occasion. Location: Opposite Itaewon Hotel

□ **Ho Lee Chow** –Chinese food.

Location: - Itaewon in the back of the Hamilton Hotel. Go up the lane beside the Hamilton and turn left and you will see a bright red sign that reads Ho Lee Chow. www.holeechow.co.kr. Phone: 02-793-0802.

□ **Istanbul** – A fun Mediterranean restaurant that is close to post. Location – Itaewon, go out Gate #3 (Kimch’l Pot gate) and turn right, use the pedestrian under pass and as you come up the restaurant is right there.

□ **Italonia** - Italian restaurant run by the same management as TGI Fridays. Very warm Italian atmosphere. Nice wine collection. Set menus are the best value.

Location: 2nd floor over the Lexus dealership just outside of Itaewon. Go out Gate #3(Kimch’l Pot Gate), go right and cross under the under

crosswalk until you are across the street. Continue going right on the sidewalk till you see the Jaguar dealership. They do offer valet parking as well. www.italonia.co.kr. Phone: 02-795-7300

□ **Korea House** - The Korea House offers a “royal buffet” with performances that include Korean court dance, mask dance, fan dance, Buddhist monk dance, and Korean classical music. Private dining rooms are also available with reservations. You can make reservations for the performance only...which is wonderful on its’ own. It is approximately 30,000 won for the buffet and 30,000 won for the performance.

Location: Take Line 4, Chungmuro Station, Exit 3 look for big blue sign on the wall by the gas station, www.koreahouse.or.kr

Phone: 02-2266-9101 for reservations

□ **La Cigale Montmarte** - You can enjoy nightly specials and delicious mussels at Itaewon’s only sidewalk café. Moderate price.

Location: Just past the Hamilton Hotel, you can’t miss the bistro tables. Phone: 02-796-1244

□ **La Cucina** - While specializing in Italian dishes, the menu here is continentally diverse and prepared with skill. The atmosphere is marvelous. Coat and tie, recommended. Some what expensive, but worth it. Location: directly across from the Hyatt Hotel in the basement of an art gallery Phone: 02-794-6005 for reservations

□ **La Tavola** – As advertised wood oven pizza, wine, music, and more. This is a fun place to go for lunch or dinner. Nice to sit by the windows overlooking Itaewon. Delicious homemade pizza and a rotating art gallery. Moderate price. Location: In Itaewon on the main road to the left just past the Hamilton Hotel. It’s on the second floor of a three story building, look up for their sign. Phone: 02-793-6144

□ **Le Saint-Ex** - French wine bar and bistro. The chef prepares daily specials that change two to three times a week. Specials include fish or seafood. They also offer wonderful homemade desserts. Afternoon tea and wine-tasting parties can also be arranged. Location: Itaewon, on the street behind the Hamilton Hotel, but at the other end. Phone: 02-795-2465.

□ **Moghul** - This Pakistani restaurant specializes in curries and fantastic breads. They offer a nice buffet which is one of the best food values in town if you like curry. Moderately priced. Location: Itaewon behind the Hamilton Hotel. Phone: 02-796-5501

□ **OB Stadium** - All you can eat beef and beer. They do office parties for the military and catering too. Location: In the heart of Itaewon on the far end of the shopping district near the Itaewon Hotel

□ **Outback Steak House** - Outback offers high-quality food and service, generous portions at moderate prices and a casual atmosphere suggestive of the Australian Outback. Although beef and steak items make up a portion of the menu, Outback also offers a variety of chicken, ribs, seafood, and pasta dishes. Location: about a 5 minute walk into Itaewon, right hand side, 2nd floor. www.outback.co.kr. Phone: 02-749-5101

□ **Paris Grill**- This lavish restaurant is perfect for a special night out. It has been described as “tiptop white tablecloth establishment” Impeccable service. The chef puts his passion for cooking in every dish. Expensive, but the lunch buffet is considered a bargain, Sunday Brunches are special. Location: Inside the Seoul Grand Hyatt. Phone: 02-799-8161

□ **TGI Fridays**- is a dining experience that has become the favorite

pastime of millions since 1965. There are numerous franchises of America's Thank God It's Friday. Location: Myeong-dong is the closest. Take Line 4 to Myeong-dong Station 424 www.tgif.co.kr Phone: 02-776-0071

□ **Thai Garden** - Seoul's longest established Thai eatery, since 1997. The curry dishes are excellent.

1st Location - Take Line 3 to Apgujeong Station 336 exit 2.

Phone – 02-517-1135

2nd Location- In Itaewon on the far end of the shopping district near OB Stadium and Itaewon Hotel. www.thaiorchid.co.kr.

Phone: 02-792-8836/8

□ **Tony Roma's** - American-style barbecue ribs and more.

Location: Seoul Art Center , out of Gate #52, cross over the Banpo bridge and make U-turn right before the Seoul Art Center. Valet parking service www.tonyromas.co.kr English available

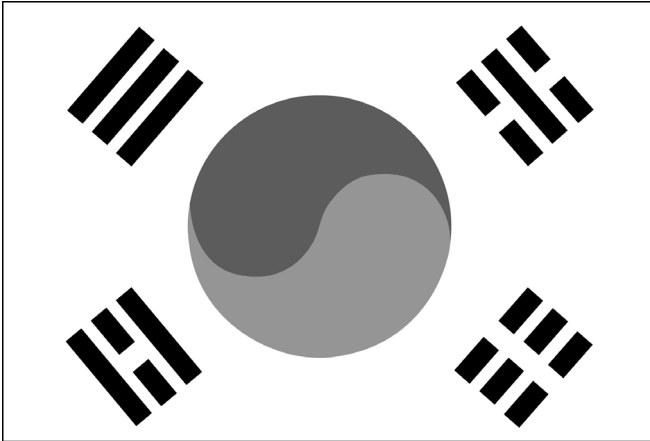
Phone: 02-711-6164

□ **Usmania** - Located up the alley to the left of the Hamilton hotel, is one of the first of its kind in Itaewon. Serving authentic Middle Eastern specialties prepared mostly from Pakistani recipes, as well as from Islamabad, Lahore, or Karachi regions. The popular buffet is an excellent way for newcomers to sample a variety of delicacies, and for veterans to fill up on the familiarities they enjoy most. 119-7 Itaewon-Dong, Yongsan-Gu, Seoul, Korea 140-200 Phone: (02) 798-7155 FAX: (02) 798-7156 <http://usmania.com.ne.kr>

□ **Yongsan Fast Food** – This restaurant offers great Korean food and fast. Very popular for lunch or dinner. Great place to venture out and try Korean food for the first time. Serves lunch and dinner.

Location – Left out of Gate #3 (Kimchee Pot Gate) and then it's on the left. Very close to post.

KOREAN FLAG



The Meaning of the Taegeukgi

Taegeukgi, the national flag of the Republic of Korea, consists of a blue and red yin-yang circle in the center, one black trigram in each of the four corners, and a white background.

The white background of Taegeukgi symbolizes light and purity and reflects the Korean people's traditional affinity for peace.

The yin-yang circle, divided equally into a blue portion below and a red portion above, represents the dual cosmic forces of yin (blue) and yang (red). It symbolizes universal harmony, in which the passive and the active, the feminine and the masculine, form the whole. The four trigrams of Geon, Gon, Gam, and Li, which surround the yin-yang circle, denote the process of yin and yang going through a series of changes and growth.

Geon (☰), with three solid bars in the upper left-hand corner, denotes “heaven”. Gon (☷), with three evenly divided bars in the lower right-hand corner, denotes “earth”. Gam (☵), with one evenly divided bar on each side of one solid bar in the upper right-hand corner, denotes “water”. And Li (☲), with one solid bar on each side of one evenly divided bar in the lower left-hand corner, denotes “fire.”

Collectively, the yin-yang circle and the four trigrams represent universal harmony and unity. Taegeukgi embodies the ideals of all Koreans, who have pursued creativity and prosperity under universal principles and truth.

Therefore, Koreans are dedicated to working harmoniously to carry out the nation’s tasks of unifying its people and contributing toward world peace and prosperity.

When and How to Fly the Flag

Days on which the flag is flown

- January 1 - New Year’s Day
- March 1 - Independence Movement Day (Anniversary of the March 1, 1919 Independence Movement)
- July 17 - Constitution Day
- August 15 - Liberation Day
- October 1 - Armed Forces Day
- October 3 - National Foundation Day
- October 9 - Hangeul Day (Anniversary of the promulgation of the Korean alphabet in 1446)

More information: http://www.korea.net/korea/kor_loca.asp?code=A0401

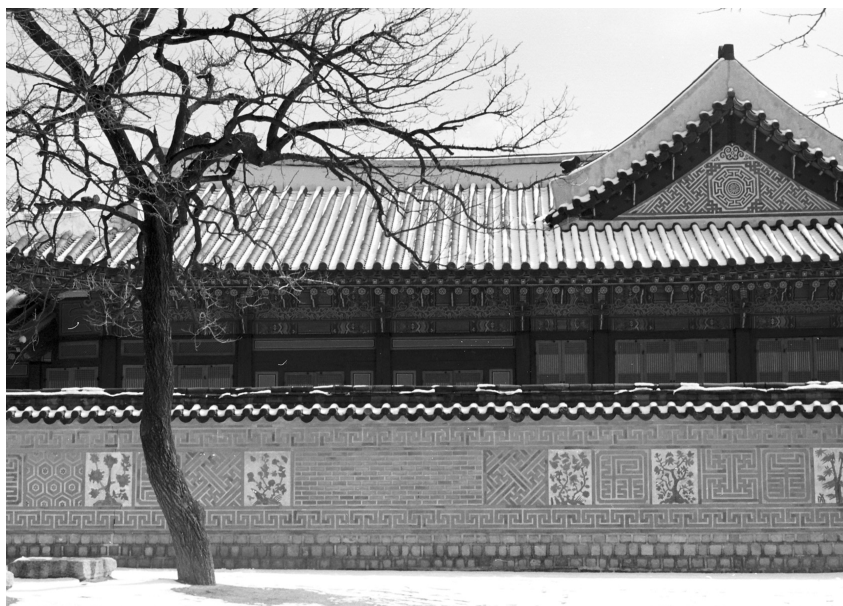


Photo by Melinda Graper

TRAVEL IN KOREA

THE ADVENTURE AWAITS

Check the website www.korea4expats.com/events-in-korea.php for a list of events. There is so much to see and do in Korea. Buy a good map and an English/Korean dictionary, get some won, and simply head out. Koreans are friendly people, who go out of their way to help you if you are trying to learn about their country.

TRAVEL WITHIN SEOUL

The majority of these can easily be reached using the subway or bus. You may want to stop by one of the many Information Booths out in town or stop by the USO and pick up some maps. They have wonderful maps in English, as well as a monthly publication called The Beetle Map that features certain areas of interest each month. A monthly tour guide magazine called Korea Rainbow has wonderful subway and street maps that can be most helpful too. If you use the subway, when you purchase your ticket ask for a Subway map in English. You will be so glad to have it and you will find that you will use it during your entire tour here. On the back of the map is a detailed listing of places to go in Seoul, what line to get on, what stop to get off at, which exit to take and how far you have to walk on foot. It's a huge help. The various admission fees and times of operation are subject to change so please check before going. The official website of the City of Seoul is www.metro.seoul.kr. It offers information on what is happening in and around Seoul. Click on the English text version.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

Buddha's Birthday Parade - This is a must see! Every year there is a marvelous Lotus Lantern Parade to celebrate Buddha's birthday. It begins with a big celebration at Yoido Plaza and continues to Chogyesa temple. Check out their website for driving directions and activity calendar. www.illf.or.kr or call festival's organizer for Buddha's Birthday at (02) 2011-1747.

Bukchon - Bukchon is one of the few remaining areas in Seoul to see a traditional Korean neighborhood. It is a hanok conservation zone and a lot of fun to explore. There are numerous small alleys to traverse and many little restaurants and boutique like shops to browse around in, definitely worth an afternoon outing! Location: near Subway Line 3, Anguk Station 328.

Cheonggyecheon Stream – This is a rebirth of sorts in the middle of downtown Seoul. This stream flows east from Cheonggyecheon Square 6.5 kilometers to the Gosanja Bridge. The stream opened in the fall of 2005. An easy way to access this area is to take Line 4, Dongdaemun Station 421, exit 4. If you are facing the tall white Dongdaemun Shopping Building the stream is to your left. Walk out of the exit and look for a staircase leading down to the stream. There are wonderful walkways and rocky areas to sit and have lunch. You can have very relaxing stroll in the midst of a busy city. This stream has quite a history. It began as a natural stream flowing from the surrounding mountains and emptying into the Han River. In the early days it provided many important functions. It served as a boundary to divide the town's political and economical regions. There were a lot of floods, however, and Water Management had to do something so they dredged and widened the stream. Its primary function ended up as an open sewer. During the Japanese invasion, plans were made to cover the entire stream, but attentions became focused elsewhere and it was neglected for a decade during World War II. After the conclusion of the Korean War in 1958, the government began a full scale operation to cover the stream. The waterway was capped by roads that became congested and then, with increasing traffic, an overpass was built. The stream stayed unseen for decades while Korea changed drastically from a battle-scarred capital to a thriving city of almost 12 million people. Locals found that their basic needs were taken care of and their attention turned to quality of life issues and the need for more green spaces. In 2002, Seoul's mayor Lee-Myung-bak pledged to restore the stream. Quite an achievement. A new environment in the middle of downtown Seoul with 21 bridges. A fun and relaxing way to spend an afternoon or evening. At night there are lights that accentuate the fountains.

COEX Aquarium – This aquarium is a fun place to take the children, especially on a rainy or hot day. It is located inside the COEX mall and takes you on a journey through the Deep Blue Sea, the Seven Seas, the Ocean Kingdom, the Inca Empire, and through an Amazonian World. There is also a Marine Touch center. Take subway Line 2, Samseong Station 219, Exit 6.

DLI (Daehan Life Insurance) 63 Building - The tall, golden building south of the Han River is the tallest skyscraper in Korea. The 1st floor has a marvelous aquarium that features seal and sea lion shows and an IMAX theater. The 56th to 59th floors have Western, Chinese, and Japanese restaurants. An observation deck on the 60th floor offers a great view of the surrounding area. Admission prices vary depending on the attraction visited. Subway line 5, Yeouinaru Station 527, Exit 1, 20 minute walk on foot. They have a parking garage if you decide to drive.

Han River – There are many things to do along the Han River. The Han River Pleasure Boat offers many different river cruises. You can contact 02-785-4411 or log on to www.hanriverboat.co.kr or www.pleasureboat.co.kr to get more information. Some hotels offer package tours including the boat rides. Also located on the river is the Han River Turtle Ship Pier. The Turtle Ship was considered the most incomparable battle ship at the time it was made. It was known for its offensive power and was created to protect Korea from future Japanese invasion. This site has an exhibition hall that houses many war relics, historical items, and the chance to tour the Turtle Ship. The Turtle Ship cruises from May until October. The pier is sponsored by the Seoul Metropolitan Government so you can check their website www.visitseoul.net It is located along the Han River between the Football Field and Physical Education Park (right by the big swimming pool).

Korean War Memorial Museum - The Korean War Memorial Museum was built in 1994 on the former site of the Korean Army Headquarters. This large and interesting Museum documents the many attacks on Korea by foreign nations. The six-story building (four above ground and two below ground), includes newsreels, photographs, maps and artifacts of the Korean war. Located next to Yongsan Main Post, this museum is well worth visiting. You can't miss the huge sculptures outside. Go out of Gate #10 (By the Dragon Hill Lodge) and cross the street and go left. The museum will be on your right.

Lotte World - Lotte World is a large indoor/outdoor complex that includes a hotel, department store, shopping mall and numerous restaurants. It also has an indoor ice rink, indoor swimming pool, folk museum and bowling alley. The main attraction however is Lotte World Adventure and Magic Island. The Korean version of Disneyland, Lotte World includes rides, a monorail train, musical acts and even a nightly laser show at 9:00pm. Thrill seekers will love such rides as Gyro Drop, where you can free fall 70 meters, or Gyro Swing, which gives the thrilling sensation of being inside a tornado. You can also take the flume ride, a log boat that passes through the Jurassic Age, or ride a Spanish pirate ship that swings at a thrilling 75 degree angle. Lotte World also has a variety of parades to include the 200 performers-strong World Carnival Parade which has music, singing, and dancing. Open daily from 09:30-23:00. Admission prices vary; check out www.lotteworld.com for more details. Take line #2 to Jamsil Station, exit 3. Lotte World is connected to the subway.

Namsangol Traditional Korean Village - Located at the foot of Namsan, this open-air museum consists of five different houses from the Joseon dynasty. Each house is furnished in period style. Adjoining the village is a small park and a Time Capsule Square. Admission is free. Open daily – Closed Tuesdays. Check www.visitseoul.net for

exact opening times. Take subway line # 4 to Chunmuro Station 423, walk 3 minutes towards ChungAng University Hospital.

Nanta Cooking Theatre – This is an interesting thing to see a theatrical show that features music created with cooking instruments. There will be flying food and flashing blades according to their pamphlet. Pick up their pamphlet at the USO or call the booking phone number is 02-739-8288. www.nanta.co.kr

National Museum of Korea – Located right next to post in Yong-san Park, it is the large building behind Commiskey's. This museum recently opened in October of 2005. This museum is the 6th largest in the world. There is an east and west section connected through an open yard that resembles a Korean traditional floor, has a roof, but no walls and is a wonderful indoor, outdoor space. The exhibits that will be housed here have been moved all over Korea since 1945 and will now have a permanent venue. It holds an impressive array of historical objects that will amaze and delight. It is wonderful to have a museum of this caliber so close to post. Open until 9pm on Wednesday and Saturday and admission is free to all visitors on 4th Saturday of each month. Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 09:00 ~ 18:00; Wednesday, Saturday 09:00 ~ 21:00 Sunday, Holidays 09:00 ~ 19:00; Closed on Monday and January 1st. Call 02-2077-9000 or visit www.museum.go.kr for more information. Walk out through gate #17, turn left and walk about 2 blocks, museum is on your left.

Seoul Arts Center – This amazing center houses many concert halls and galleries and is located pretty close to post. You can spend a lot of time wandering from place to place in this extensive space. There is an Opera Theatre, Concert Hall, Recital Hall, Hangaram Art Museum, Hangaram Design Art Museum (which features rotating exhibits), Seoul Calligraphy Art Museum, and several gift shops and a small

restaurant. There is always something going on so check their website www.sac.or.kr or call 02-580-1300. It is an easy drive straight across the Banpo bridge till the last stop light and you will be facing it. Don't take the tunnel...it goes right under it. Turn left at the light and then an immediate right into the parking area. Parking for a nominal fee. Seoul citizens love the arts! This is one of many performing arts centers so please check local publications to see what new exhibit, ballet performance, or musical concert is happening now.

Seoul City Bus Tour - This is a city tour on a bus that takes you all over the city. You have the luxury of not worrying about parking or driving and you can pick out spots that you want to return to. A one day pass is approximately 10,000 won for adults. Check this website for more details: www.seoulcitytourbus.com.

Seoul Tower – Also known as Namsan Tower because it sits high atop Mount Namsan (Green Mountain). Easily visible from most places in Seoul, it is an integrated telecommunications tower that is also used as a viewing station for tourists and locals to enjoy. This is a great way to see the city of Seoul in all its grandeur (especially at night). The Seoul Tower was recently renovated and there have been many changes. There are English brochures available that give great information on all the changes including many new restaurants. You have to see it to believe it. The Tower now has a new lighting system. The main color displayed is red symbolizing Korean passion and changes throughout the day. All of the lights change colors on national holidays. There have been changes here as well. You can no longer drive up to the Tower because cars are now prohibited due to the Seoul government's policy of reforestation across Mt. Namsan.

By car- drive or use a taxi, park at the National Theater of Korea parking lot. You will see a food stand near the entrance to the National

Theater, this is a bus stop. A main line bus (Namsan Circular Line) will come and pick you up and take you up to the Tower. You can use a T-Money card or the cost is approximately 600 won per person. When you go to leave you will have to take the whole bus route to return to the National Theater, but it only takes about 20 minutes. You can also ride a cable car from the Namsan cable car station, there is a parking lot available there.

By subway- get off at Chungmuro Station from exit #2 and transfer to the Namsan Circular Line (bus main line 402 or branch line 0014, 4012). To use the subway to get to the cable car station get off at Myeongdong Station 424, exit # 3. It is a ten minute walk uphill to the cable car station.

Samcheonggak - This center was established by the Seoul Government to further Korean culture. Samcheonggak has a web site at www.samcheonggak.or.kr that includes detailed information on programs and events offered by the center, as well as its history.

PARKS, THEME PARKS, AND ZOOS:

Children's Grand Park - Located in northeast Seoul near the Sheraton Walker Hill, this park has a wonderful zoo, indoor botanical gardens, a nice size amusement park, an outdoor concert stage, playground, picnic areas and a children's center showing puppet plays. There is an admission fee and it open daily at 9:00am.

Take line #5 to Ahasan Station 545, exit 4 or Line # 7 to Children's Grand Park Station 726, exit 1.



Everland, Wooden Roller Coaster

Everland - Composed of play facilities, shopping facilities, and restaurants, Everland is the fourth largest theme park in the world by Fobes. (2006)

Everland Resort consists of three parks, Everland Park, Caribbean Bay, and Everland Speedway. Everland Park provides more than 40 fascinating attractions, seasonal flower festivals, Korea's longest and biggest snow sleighing site and complex Safari World of carnivores and herbivores that is unique worldwide. Everland Park is a theme park complex consisting of 6 theme zones: Global Fair, American Adventure, Aesop village, Magic Land, European Adventure and Zoo-Topia.

Caribbean Bay is a water park offering a variety of fun and water attractions to include machine generated waves, surfing rides, high rapid slides and beautiful beach fronts will provide unforgettable experience to guests. Aquatic center, the indoor part of Caribbean Bay, brings more relaxed pleasure with sand bottom pool, saunas and lazy river

float.

Everland Speedway is the “only” racing track in Korea. You can drive your car on the speedway as well as watch a race.

This park also contains a full-scale zoo, which in addition to the regular viewing areas, includes a bus ride that will take you on a “mini” safari through the African animal complex.

Admission prices vary depending on your choices. Check out www.everland.com/english or 02-759-1946 for details. Hours are subject to change depending on the season. Easy drive and ample parking. Take Highway 1 to the I-50 split. Exit onto I-4 toward Wonju(heading east) and follow signs to Everland. For your return, follow signs to Seoul, it will put you back onto Highway 1.

Hangang River Citizen’s Park - A “development project” in the 1980s, Hangang River Citizen’s Park covers a large area up and down the river’s edge. A sports haven, you can see people strolling or jogging along the trail paths, in-line skaters, bicyclers, and soccer fields or basketball courts. Citizen’s Park is composed of Gwangnaru, Jamsil, Ttukseom, Jamwon, Banpo, Ichon, Yeouido, Yanghwa, Mangwon, Seonyudo, Nanji, and Gangseojigu - a total of 12 districts. Citizen’s Park is a beautiful area to visit in the evenings, as it is filled with the lights from Hangang River and the surrounding city buildings. Go out Gate 17, cross underground through Ichon Station, Exit 4 and continue walking 10 minutes to the river.

Namsan Park - Seoul’s main peak, Namsan or “South Hill”, once marked the southern edge of old royal Seoul. Remains of the city walls can even still be seen in some of the park’s wooded areas. Namsan stands in the center of the city, surrounded by the major shopping districts of Namdaemun, Myongdong, and Itaewon. Located at the top of Mt Namsan is the Seoul Tower. Standing (with the aid of the mountain) 483m above sea level, Seoul Tower is the city’s most visible landmark.

With its rotating restaurant and observation deck, Seoul Tower offers an excellent view of Seoul and the surrounding areas. Make sure to do this on a clear day so you can get the benefit of the spectacular view from the tower's upper deck. In addition to the Seoul Tower, Namsan Park contains many other places of interest such as Namsan Botanical Gardens, Namsan Public Library, and several statues in memorial of Korean patriots. The park also contains a Paljakjung or octagonal pavilion, an aquarium, and a cable car leading to Seoul Tower. Admission prices vary depending on attraction visited. Check out www.parks.seoul.kr/namsam for more details. Opens daily at 9:30am. Take subway Line 4 to Hoehyeon Station 425, exit 4. You will have to walk approximately 15 min. and then take the cable car to the summit of Namsan Park. The cable car operates from 10:00- 22:30, every fifteen minutes.

Olympic Park - One of the World's five top sculpture parks in Korea, Olympic Park contains the World Peace Gate, the remains of a Mongchontoseong Earthen Fortress, an outdoor sculpture garden, sports facilities and walking trails. Olympic Sculpture Park was constructed not only to celebrate the 24th Seoul Olympics as cultural event but also to commemorate its spirit, 'Harmony and Progress.' The Sculpture Park has over 200 large modern sculptures by world-class artists. It is home to one of the world's finest collections of sculptures all situated within a beautifully landscaped setting. The Seoul Olympic Museum is located in this park. This museum has various displays for the avid sports fan and they even have an AV theater where you can ride through space and time to share in the excitement of the Seoul Olympic Games. Log on to www.seoulolympicmuseum.com for more information. Take subway line # 5 to Olympic Park Station P550, Exit 3.

Sajik Park - Originally built around a stone altar that was erected in 1394, this park was created in 1921 during Japan's occupation of

Korea. Sajik Park is also home to other famous historical landmarks including Tangun Hall, Chongno Municipal Library, and Hwanghakdong. An archery range is located at the rear of the park, and every year a national competition is held here. Visitors can hike to Mt. Inwansan from the main gate. Nearby is Gyeongbok Palace and Gyeonghui Palace. Take subway line # 3 to Gyeongbokgung Station 327 and walk ten minutes toward Sajik Tunnel.

Seoul Grand Park - Located in the suburbs south of Seoul, this enormous park is a large sprawling affair with a number of attractions. Although the park is mostly geared towards children there are some sights for adults. Within the park there is an excellent zoo that houses a good collection of animals, many in roomy enclosures. The zoo boasts a large aviary, an indoor botanical garden, a dolphin and seal show and even a display of ants and swimming beetles in a 'miniature creature' exhibit. The Seoul Land Amusement Park and The National Museum of Contemporary Art are co-located with the park. Admission fees vary depending on your choices. Check out <http://grandpark.seoul.go.kr/eng/> for more details. You may purchase tickets for the zoo and Seoul Land at the USO. Hours are subject to change, depending on season. For details, call 82-2-5007882~3. Take Line 4 to Seoul Grand Park Station 437, exit 1. Walk to the train to go to the zoo, amusement park or museum.

Seoul Land Amusement Park: This is one of the largest amusement parks in Korea. It offers over 40 rides, 5 outdoor amphitheatres and other facilities. The National Museum of Contemporary Art and Seoul Grand Park are attached to Seoul Land, so that the visitors can stop by all three places at the same time. Admission fees vary depending on your choices. Check out <http://grandpark.seoul.go.kr/eng/> for more details. You may purchase tickets for the zoo and Seoul Land at the USO. Hours are subject to change, depending on season. For details,

call 82-2-5007882~3. Take Line 4 to Seoul Grand Park Station, exit 1. Walk to the train to go to the zoo, amusement park or museum.

Tigerworld Waterpark is located in Tigerworld equipped with an indoor golf field, indoor ski resort, wave pool, children's pool, spas, an Aqua Bar (where you can enjoy beverages while swimming), seven different kinds of slides (including a Body Slide, a Kiddy Slide, and a Space Ball-a massive water facility that is 33 meters in height that you go through at a high speed. Bring towels. You can rent towels but they are very small. When you check in you get an electronic watch which is the lock for your locker and also an electronic charge device for you to pay for the lifejackets and food. You don't need to carry any money around. When you check out, you pay for what was charged to your watch.

From Exit No. 2 of Bugae Station (Seoul Metro line No. 1), take Town Bus No. 579 or City Bus No. 79 and then get off at Sangil High School (takes 5 mins). From the school, take a walk for 5 minutes to Tigerworld. Alternatively, you can take a taxi at Bugae Station (It costs approximately 2,500 won).

Website: <http://www.tigerworld.co.kr/>

Driving Directions: Go out Gate 19, Cross the Hangangyo Bridge, follow it till it turns into I-120, then take a left (South) on I-100. You'll see signs to exit for Tigerworld. Parking is free. Below is a link to other waterparks here as well.

http://english.tour2korea.com/03Sightseeing/TravelSpot/travelspot_read.asp?oid=3784&kosm=

Yongsan Family Park - Located on the former American Military Golf Course, Yongsan Family Park opened in 1992. Its large grass fields and refreshing pond serve as the perfect combination for a resting park. There are picnic tables and chairs for your outdoor picnics. The location of the Yongsan Family Park was a very important place in the

past. It was once the base of the service corps during the Imjin War in 1592. During the Korean War and afterwards, it housed the American Compound and Golf course. It became public space for all to enjoy when it was converted into the Yongsan Family Park. In 2005, a national museum is to be constructed on the site. Open daily. Go out Gate 17, turn left and walk ten minutes.

PALACES

The Royal Palaces of Seoul are the pride of Korea. Although most of the buildings were damaged or destroyed by war, their historical and aesthetic significance are still appreciated throughout the world. All of the palaces and their contents date from the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910) and restoration is ongoing as the government seeks to recreate the buildings as they once were. The Royal Palaces are located in downtown Seoul and public transportation such as bus, subway, or taxi are easily available. At specific times during the day, there are special ceremonies that are performed such as the changing of the guard or a traditional Korean wedding ceremony. Most Palace admission fees are between 1,000 won – 5,000 won (so take won with you) and the Palaces listed below open at 9:00am. Most involve a lot of walking as well so wear comfortable shoes.

Changdeokkung & Biwon (Secret Garden) - Changdeokkung Palace (Historic Site No. 122) was originally constructed in 1405 as a detached palace after Gyeongbokkung Palace was constructed by King Taejo and neighbor with Changgyeongung Palace. Inside the Changdeokkung Palace, the Secret Garden is a quiet and beautiful place composed of 78 acres of oriental plant life, with pavilions, ponds and wooded areas. In ancient times, only royal family members were allowed to enter the gardens for pleasure, so it has been known as the Secret Garden (Biwon). Guided English tours are available at approximately 11:30, 13:30 & 15:30 and last around 90 minutes. If you'd

rather not have a tour, you may enter the grounds of Changdeokgung for a small fee. However, if you are not on an organized tour, you will not be able to visit the Biwon or secret Garden. (Closed every Monday). Take Line 3 to Anguk Station 328, exit 3

Changgyeongung Palace - Changgyeongung Palace (Historic Site No. 123) is the oldest and one of the largest royal palaces in existence today. It was originally built by King Sejong in 1419, as a residence for his father, Taejong. It was later renovated and enlarged in 1483 by King Seongjong and was used as a residence for 3 dowager queens. During the Japanese colonial rule, the Japanese renamed it Changgyeongwon, demoting it from a gung (palace) to a won (park), and built a zoo, a botanical garden, and the royal Yi Household Museum on the site. In 1983, the zoo and botanical garden were moved, and the palace was renamed Changgyeongung. (Closed every Monday). Take Line 4 to Hyehwa Station 420, exit 4. Walk 5 minutes southwest.

Deoksugung Palace: Originally, built as an aristocratic villa, Deoksugung became a palace in 1593 when King Seonjo returned to Seoul after fleeing the Japanese invasion of 1592. All of Seoul's other palaces had been destroyed during the Japanese invasion. Although 2 kings were later crowned here, Deoksugung remained a secondary palace and was vacant for approximately 200 years. In 1897, King Gojong moved into Deoksugung upon his return to power. Although he was forced to abdicate in 1907, King Gojong remained at Deoksugung until his death in 1919. Deoksugung is now a popular stop both for tourists as well as city dwellers. You can enjoy an extraordinary mixture of architectural structures to include a traditional Korean style grand audience hall and a western style tea pavilion. In addition, the Royal Guards changing ceremony is held here from 14:00 to 15:30, every Tuesday to Sunday from March to December. (Closed every Monday). Take Line 1 to City Hall Station 132, exit 2. Walk 2 minutes south.

Gyeongbokgung Palace: Gyeongbokgung Palace (Palace of Shining Happiness) was originally built in 1395 by King Taejo, as a tribute to the permanent happiness and prosperity of Korea's kings, their children and the people of the nation. It was the main palace until 1592, when it was burnt down during the Japanese invasion. The palace remained in ruins until 1865, when Prince Regent Daewongun began to rebuild it. During the Japanese colonial period, many of the palace buildings were either demolished or moved to other places within Seoul. In 1995 the Korean government began a major restoration project of the palace, which is currently scheduled for completion in 2020. Among the many palaces in Seoul, it is considered the largest and most beautiful in architectural style. The National Folk Museum, opened in 1975, is located in the compound, exhibiting many artifacts that demonstrate traditional Korean ways of life. The Palace has a Palace Gate Opening and Closing Ceremony and Royal Guard Changing Ceremony (3 Ceremonies a day) every day between 10am and 4pm (except Tuesdays) from March to November. (Closed every Tuesday). Take Line 3 to Gyeongbokgung Station 327, exit 5.

Kyonghui Palace -Close to the Sejong Cultural Center, this palace was commissioned by King Kwanghae in 1617. It was originally named Kyongdok until 1760, when King Yongjo renamed it Kyonghui. The Seoul Municipal Museum of Art is located within the compound. Admission inside the royal residence is not permitted while it is under construction. Open 24 hours daily. Take Line 5 to Sodaemun Station 532, exit 4, walk 5 minutes northeast.

Unhyeongung Palace – This palace has several elegant buildings to tour. On the last Saturday of April and October, the wedding ceremony of King Gojong and Queen Myeongseong is reenacted here. Open daily. Take Line 3 to Anguk Station, Exit 4.

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF SEOUL

Traveling around outside of Seoul can seem intimidating but it is really wonderful to get to see different regions of Korea and the different terrains and scenery they offer. This is just a “get you started” list of places to see and things to do in South Korea.

NORTHERN

DMZ Demilitarized Zone and Panmunjom – This is such an important part of Korean History and very important to see in order to truly understand the effect of being so close to the most heavily fortified border on the planet. This tour is better with a group where somebody else handles the necessary clearances. There are tours available through the USO and the Dragon Hill Lodge. The USO has a great tour that is very affordable but reserve your spot early because the buses fill up fast. The Dragon Hill Lodge half day tour does not take you to the Panmunjom area and is more expensive so know where each tour takes you to before booking so you will not be disappointed.

Ganghwado Island- Located approximately 50km to the west of Seoul, and less than one km off the coast of Incheon, Ganghwado Island is the fifth-largest island in Korea. It is both rich in history and natural beauty. Mt. Manisan and the Chamseongdan Alter are located here along with several temples and military sights. Visitors can easily find Ganghwado local products such as Hwamunseok, rice, and ginseng at the town markets.

Incheon - The sight of MacArthur’s famous landing, this busy port city on the western coast offers a park commemorating the event and a small museum that houses the city’s collection of archeological and

historical materials. It is also an excellent place for a great seafood meal. Take the train - it is much easier than driving in the bumper-to-bumper traffic from Seoul. The Memorial Hall for Incheon Landing Operation is located here. The hall was created by the Incheon citizens to honor those who sacrificed their lives to preserve democracy and freedom on the Peninsula. The hall contains lots of interesting war stories, uniforms, and weaponry used during the invasion of the communist forces in 1950.

❑ **Skiing** - Skiing is rapidly becoming one of the most popular sports in Korea. Although there are a variety of resort areas with ski slopes, the popular areas are very crowded on weekends. The USO frequently sponsors group trips. Ski clothing is abundant and inexpensive in Korea, but the equipment is another matter. If you have ski equipment and plan on skiing a lot, bring your own. Rental items are available at most resorts, but buying items you need will be expensive! There are several resorts located within 2 hours of Seoul, but the more luxurious resorts are up to 5 hours away from Seoul. Look into Yongpyong and Muju if you are interested in a “world class” resort. The following list describes just a few of the ski areas available for skiers.

Ski Resorts

❑ **Bears Town** - Located 1 - 1/2 hours north of Seoul, ten slopes, eleven lifts. Seoul: 594-8188 Resort: 02-594-8188 www.bearstown.com .

❑ **Chonmassan Star Hill Resort**- Located 1 hour northeast of Seoul, contains four slopes and lifts. 02-2233-5311 Resort: 031-594-1211. www.starhillresort.com.

❑ **Muju** - Located 5 hours south of Seoul, contains 23 slopes and 12 lifts. Seoul: 02-547-5193/4 Resort: 063-322-9000.

❑ Phoenix Park and Misan Valley – Located 2 hours from Seoul in Gangwon-do. Yongpyeon Ski Resort is only 20 minutes away. This re-

sort is a candidate for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Resort: 02-527-9511 www.phoenixpark.co.kr (click on the little gray E for English in the top right corner).

❑ **Yangji Pine Resort**- Located 1 hour southeast of Seoul, contains seven slopes and lifts. 02-511-3033 Resort: 031-338-2001/4 www.pineresort.com .

❑ **Yongpyeong Resort**- Located in northeast of Seoul, contains 27 slopes and 16 lifts. Resort: 033-335-5757 www.yongpyong.co.kr .

Hiking Mt. Sorak – There are various places to hike in Korea. One of the most renown is Soraksan National Park. Soraksan means “snow summit mountains”. This mountain is always busy, particularly during the peak season during the fall when the leaves change. By 6:00am the park is packed with thousands of Koreans ready for a day’s hike. Entrance fee is about 3,200 won (\$3.50). There are restaurants, temples, and statues, including a big Buddha statue. A good souvenir to buy is a bandana stamped with a trail map of the park. The park is crowded and if you are looking for peace and quiet you will not find it here. It is not like National Parks in some countries. It can not be denied however that Soraksan is one of South Korea’s Wonders because of the breathtaking scenery. The USO has some hiking tours available during the fall hiking season. Check their calendar for upcoming events and the overnight tours to Soraksan.

CENTRAL

Icheon/Yoju Ceramic Kilns - Icheon Village of Ceramics is a definite destination for those interested in pottery. It is famous for its celadon manufacturing and there are numerous ceramics studios, ceramics shops and even a ceramics museum. In addition, ceramics classes are offered to the public. You can drive or take one of the tours pro-

vided by the USO. The Icheon Ceramics Festival is held here from the end of September to early October. Yoju is the site of King Sejong's tomb. It is east of Icheon and also has many pottery factories. The World Ceramic Exposition Foundation has a wonderful website that gives information on various museums including the Icheon Ceramics Festival, log on to www.wocef.com and click on English and then on to whatever interests you. (For a map of The Icheon Ceramics Festival click on Museums).

Independence Memorial Hall of Korea –Located just south of Osan, Independence Memorial Hall of Korea is the nation's largest museum. The museum is easy to navigate and there are lots of English descriptions.

Admission Fee is approximately 1,600 won for adults, 1,100 won for students, 700 won for children & seniors.

- **Open:** Year Round – closed Mondays. See websites for exact times.
- **How To get There:** Easy Afternoon trip - Located off the Kyongbu Expressway

Kyongju – (Gyeongju) Kyongju was once the capital of the Silla dynasty for over 1000 years. Today, many of those historic buildings and objects have been maintained throughout the city and it is often referred to as “The Museum without Walls”. Many sites are within easy walking distance from each other, making visiting the city very convenient.

Although Kyongju is one of the key stops on the Reunion Tour, many people want to spend more time there. Travel by train is easy from Yongsan and it is not a difficult trip for people wishing to drive. Plan on staying overnight.

Korean Folk Village - Located just east of Suwon, This is a wonderful place to go and see traditional Korean houses and the Korean living culture. This is the Korean equivalent of Colonial Williamsburg. With over 260 buildings, the visitor will see replicas of everyday Korean village life such as traditional houses, government offices, a market, a water-mill, and a pottery shop. Each offer glimpses of the cultural heritage and traditional lifestyles of the past. It is very scenic as you walk through the shady paths winding through various structures showing Korean lifestyles through the ages. There is also a Folk Museum, Art Museum, and a Sculpture Garden where you can enjoy modern art pieces. The Market Place is a restaurant where you can enjoy traditional Korean foods and shop the souvenir shops for unique gift items. Located in the center of the village is a performance area where some exciting folk music and dance take place at certain times of day. If that's not enough they also have a small amusement park called Family Park. For more details and admission fees log on to www.korean-folk.co.kr.

□ How to Get There: You can drive and take the Suwon exit off Highway 1 and follow the signs or check with the USO for a planned trip.

SOUTH AND COASTAL

Chinhae - This city is on the southern coast of Korea, just west of Pusan. Chinhae's claim to fame rests in its beautiful display of cherry blossoms every year, generally in late March or early April. Be prepared for crowds, but it truly is worth the hassle.

Hongdo Island - This island is possibly one of the most beautiful places in South Korea, but a little difficult to reach. Take the train to

Mokp'o, which is in southwest Korea. From Mokp'o, take the ferry to Hongdo. The only accommodations in the area are Korean style "yogwans", but they are clean and pleasant for a nights stay in good weather.

Jeju Island(Cheju Island) - Located off the southwest coast of South Korea, the resort island of Cheju-do is dominated by Mount Halla, Korea's highest mountain. With its warm, sunny climate and numerous leisure facilities Cheju-do is a popular vacation destination. Jeju-do has mild weather year round and is the largest of Korea's islands. Vacationers will find sandy beaches, hiking trails, and even a new amusement park, 'Cheju World'. Natural attractions include the Samsonghyol Caves, waterfalls and the volcanic scenery of Songsanilchulbong Park. Other things to do on the island include golf, horseback riding, windsurfing, local restaurants, nightlife, and shopping districts. The flights leave regularly and are short, making this island ideal for a quick getaway. Check with your travel agent or with the USO for booking details.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of things to do but it does offer some starting points. For additional information, consult the Yongsan Library or consider traveling with an organized group. Within the Yongsan community, one of the primary sources for travel information within Korea is the USO. The USO offers a wide variety of trips, both in Seoul and throughout the country. Schedules are available from the Moyer Community Activities Center, Camp Kim USO and the information desk at the Dragon Hill.

There are several publications that offer travel advice. The Seoul Selection is a weekly newsletter that has all of the current events happening in Seoul. You can also access it through their website at www.seoulselection.com. The Korea Herald has a travel section in their weekend issue, featuring a thorough article and map of a different

place each week. The Yongsan Library has back issues if you want to review them. Arirang Magazine, published by the American Women's Club, often has good travel articles. In addition, AWC also sponsors trips to places off the beaten track although these are only open to members. Seoul City News has up to date information on local events. Check out www.seoulcitynews.com for more information. Many other organizations in Seoul also offer excellent tours. Check the English language newspapers in the Local Events column for details. The Korean National Tourism Organization is also an excellent source of information and assistance. Their main office is in downtown Seoul, Tel: 02-729-9600. A visit to the KNTTO is time well spent; you will come away with information on festivals, museums, dining, and just about anything else you may want to know about Korea. Visit www.english.tour2korea.com for more information.

Some other helpful Tourism Websites:

- www.lifeinkorea.com : Life In Korea
- www.seoulife.com : Seoul Life (mostly real estate but some helpful info)
- www.welcome.korea.com: Korea.com
- www.npa.or.kr/eng: Korean National Parks Authority
- www.knto.or.kr: "Site for Korea National Tourist Information Center."
Click _____ on the English text version
- www.english.seoul.go.kr Seoul Metropolitan Government

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF KOREA

One of the greatest things about an assignment to Korea is its proximity to all those “exotic” places you always wanted to go, but which somehow seemed too far away or too expensive.

Traveling to other countries in the Orient from Korea can be both rewarding and fairly inexpensive compared to stateside prices if you follow a few simple guidelines:

While you are deciding where to go, make sure you check to make sure the area is not restricted by USFK due to terrorism, disease, etc. Here are some web sites to help you with your decision.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/>

World Health Organization (WHO) Advisory, available at <http://www.who.int/en/>

U.S. State Department Public Announcement, available at <http://travel.state.gov/>

Before You Travel

□ Research, research, research. Once you have selected a destination, find out everything you can about which airlines are available, which hotels may be having a special promotion, and what travel agent is the most competent. You will find you can save hundreds of dollars by shopping around.

□ Check with the embassy of the country you plan to visit to see if their Department of Tourism is planning a special promotion.

- Check into the package tours offered by the USO. The tour department at the USO has always been particularly helpful.
- Talk with those who have traveled during their tour in Korea. Their experiences can often save you a lot of time, trouble AND money.
- Always know the visa/immunization requirements of the country/ countries you're going to visit.
- If it's offered, always buy baggage insurance when traveling in the Orient.
- Learn as much as possible about your intended destination.
- Be aware of the fact that most of the airports in the Orient have an airport tax, some of which have to be paid in the local currency. Always know what this is and put money aside to pay it.
- Study the international currency rates published in the local papers before going on your trip so that you will know what amount of local currency you expect for your dollars/won. Try not to change too much money in airports or hotels. They normally have the worst rates around.
- If you're going on your own without the assistance of an English-speaking tour guide, definitely consider buying an English-Whatever language you need dictionary. Even if you can't speak the language, being able to point at the appropriate words normally helps.
- Particularly in light of the current world situation, try to blend into a crowd and not be offensive in your manner or dress. Many Westerners unintentionally offend people of Oriental cultures by wearing "improper" clothing into their temples and shrines. Know in advance what the customs are and dress accordingly. You will find that people are much nicer to you when you respect their culture and make an attempt, however small, to learn a few words of their language.
- Remember that many things are different in the Orient (voltage for appliances, driving on a different side of the road, etc.) and you need to be prepared for these differences. Living in Korea, having many of the conveniences of home, tends to lull you into a false sense of security.

- Travel light because you undoubtedly will find many “treasures” to purchase during your journey. Many veteran travelers travel with an empty lightweight bag folded into their luggage just so they’ll be able to get their purchases home safely.
- Customs. Know the customs laws of each country you plan to travel in and the Korean laws as well. You can check with the embassy of your destination for current information on their laws and with the Customs Office on Yongsan for the Korean rules.
- If you are flying Space-A, always be prepared to pay for a commercial ticket back to Korea if the Space-A flights suddenly are not available. Also, be prepared to pay for lodging if you are forced to stay in an area longer than anticipated.

Healthy Travel Tips

No matter where your travels may take you, observe the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes. Check to make sure that bottles for water are not being reused. Bottle caps should be new and unopened.
- Because motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury among travelers, walk and drive defensively. Avoid travel at night if possible and always use seat belts.
- Protect yourself from insects by remaining in well-screened areas, using repellents (applied sparingly at four-hour intervals), and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Never eat undercooked ground beef and poultry, raw eggs, and unpasteurized dairy products. Raw shellfish is particularly dangerous to persons who have liver disease or compromised immune systems.

- ❑ Avoid animals. Monkeys, dogs, cats, chicken and ducks can be a source of serious diseases such as rabies, plague and bird flu.
- ❑ To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot.
- ❑ Here are some supplies and equipment you might consider adding to your suitcase or backpack:
- ❑ Long-sleeved shirt and long pants to wear while outside whenever possible, to prevent illnesses carried by insects.
- ❑ Insect repellent containing DEET (diethylmethyلتoluamide), in 22- to 35-percent strength for adults and 6-to 10-percent for children, as well as a bed net impregnated with the insecticide permethrin. (Bed nets can be purchased in camping or military supply stores.)
- ❑ Over-the-counter anti-diarrhea medicine to take if necessary.
- ❑ Iodine tablets and portable water filters to purify water if bottled water is not available.
- ❑ Prescription medications: make sure you have enough to last during your trip, as well as a copy of the prescription(s).

A valuable resource available for all travelers on the Web is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>. The CDC issues various travel notices to warn travelers about potential infectious disease threats.

Emergency or Urgent Health Care While Traveling

If you need emergency or urgent medical care while traveling in the Western Pacific countries, you may call International SOS (ISOS) collect or if you are in Singapore, call direct at [65-6-388-9277](tel:65-6-388-9277). TRI-CARE contracted and partnered with International SOS, a world wide company, to establish a network of quality healthcare providers and hospitals throughout the western Pacific to assist with urgent and emergency medical care (see below table) for Active Duty Service Members (ADSM's). By using the ISOS network, ADSM's will incur no

up-front out-of-pocket costs and no claims to file. It is a cashless and claimless service. This service is available to ADSM's who are TDY, deployed or simply on leave in Pacific areas where a US Military Treatment Facility is not available. ISOS can assist you in obtaining urgent and emergency medical care. ISOS is not to be used to obtain routine visits or treatment. Active Duty Family Members may use this service, but they are required to pay for the services up-front and submit for a claim once they return back to Korea.

EMERGENCY CARE DEFINITION

Care provided for sudden and unexpected onset of a medical or psychiatric condition or the acute exacerbation of a chronic condition that is threatening to life, limb or sight and requires immediate medical treatment.

URGENT CARE DEFINITION

Treatment for a medical or psychological condition that would cause undue discomfort to the patient or that may worsen if not treated within 24 hours.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- Seek care from the nearest medical facility.
- Dial the local number for ambulance service as provided by the American Embassy, military unit, or other source.
- Have a local address and phone number available. Do not hang up the phone until directed to do so by the host nation operator.
- When emergency treatment or hospitalization in a local civilian facility is received, contact International SOS as soon as possible.

URGENT CARE

If you need urgent care in Pacific locations, International SOS can provide several valuable services. By calling them before receiving care, you can:

- Find a qualified health care provider.
- Avoid paying up front for care.
- Avoid filing claims.

Otherwise, expect to pay the host nation provider at the time of service. Then file the claim with 18th MEDCOM TRICARE CENTER upon return from travel.

For more information, please stop by the 18th MEDCOM TRICARE Service Center, bldg 7102 or call 736-8558/7238/7236.

With these guidelines in mind, the following brief information is offered to assist you with specific destinations.

Where to Go

The following is a list of possible places to explore. Due to changing world conditions, always check with the embassy, USFK and the following website to see if travel to your country of choice is recommended. www.asktheconsul.org

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND - These “lands down under” are beginning to enjoy a real surge in popularity for travelers from Korea. There are several package tours on the market. You can easily obtain your visa from the Australian Embassy in the Kyobo Building downtown near the American Embassy. Qantas Airline and KAL have direct flights to Sydney. If you want to enjoy some “awesome” blue skies, incredible snorkeling, cosmopolitan atmosphere, breath-taking sights, superbly prepared seafood and Continental food/desserts, and English spoken EVERYWHERE; a trip to Sydney and the Gold Coast is just what you need! The Radisson Hotel at Kings Cross is conveniently located in Sydney. They usually offer a military rate and have free hors d’oeuvres and cocktails on weeknights. Best of all, the subway runs under the hotel. You can buy a subway pass to run “the Circle.” This pass gives you unlimited passage to points around the city for the day. Some places you might like to visit are the Sydney Opera House; Harry’s Cafe On Wheels (a favorite for celebrities like Elton John) famous for its meat pies and hot dogs, the Sydney Zoo which you get to by taking a ferry ride, then a cable car ride up a hill to one of the most spectacular views of Sydney Harbor; the Australian Navy Base (a 5-minute walk from the Radisson Hotel) which you can enter with your Military ID card and then walk right down to the harbor; the Blue Mountains, a day trip organized by the hotel; or just some relaxed shopping in the restored Victorian buildings, antique arcades that are now shopping areas, and department stores.

Another inexpensive transportation source is the double-decker red bus. For a nominal charge, you can ride the bus down to the coastal areas, getting on and off as you please to go to the beaches and soak up some sun and surf. While you are in Sydney, go to a travel agency and check into their tours for the Gold Coast. They offer some wonderful specials for the Great Barrier Reef area. On one tour, you fly to Cairns; then take a bus to Port Douglas, traveling through an exotic rain forest. There, you board a train for an incredible single track train ride around the mountains to the town of Kuranda, where there is a beautifully restored railway station, souvenir stands and for the brave at heart: bungee jumping. The next day you can take a cruise 35 miles out to the Barrier Reef where there is a gigantic floating dock. Aboard ship, you will be treated to a lunch buffet of seafood like you have never tasted. The enormous dock has scuba diving, snorkeling, mini-submarine rides, helicopter rides and an underwater observatory. If you want to be pampered, try the exclusive resort on Haymen Island. It boasts having the largest swimming pool in the Southern Hemisphere. Haymen Island is very expensive.

Some other treats to try are: Mocha (pronounced "Maw-ka") Iced Coffee and the delicious sponge cakes with strawberries and cream. If this sounds too good to be true, call the embassies: Australian Embassy call 02-2003-0100, New Zealand Embassy call 730-7794

CAMBODIA - Siem Reap and the Temples of Angkor Wat are fast becoming a major destination. As of summer 2005, Korean Air has a direct flight into Siem Reap, which makes this exotic locale much easier to reach! Although the city is modernizing at a fast pace, this still may not be a trip to take children on. Healthcare is not easily accessible and there is a lot of walking through old stone ruins. The temples date back to 800AD and are mainly of Hindu origin with Buddhism influence in the later temples. They are UNBELIEVABLY FASCINATING to tour!! Monks are walking around, incense is burning, people are praying, and

beautiful little children are trying to sell native crafts. The land and culture surrounding the Angkor Wat Complex is equally as fascinating -- rice paddies everywhere, traditional thatched roof housing (charming in a strange way, although many still have no electricity), people napping in hammocks on the roadside, skinny livestock, such as water buffalo, scattered around, and beautiful lotus ponds. The USO can book a tour package, it is a four night/five day trip.

CHINA (The People's Republic of) - There is so much to do: The Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, the caves where Peking Man originated, the pandas, the amazing lifestyle of over one billion people.... the list is endless.

The USO, in cooperation with a travel agency in Hong Kong sponsors individual or group tours to China for varying amounts of time and prices. You can get information from them about your visa. If you go with the USO tour, they will arrange a visa for you.

A Chinese Consulate recently opened in Seoul. Trade relations between the two countries are increasing rapidly. If you prefer to make your own arrangements, you can phone the Consulate. Tel: 755-6375. When they ask you what you want to see and do, research your answer carefully to describe them. Traveling in China would take up more space than this book permits; suffice to say the list is overwhelming but what else could you expect from a civilization which produced the Great Wall. It is, after all, the only man-made structure which our astronauts say is clearly visible from outer space. Embassy telephone: 319-5101. A shopping guide for Beijing is available on the AFSC website: www.afsckorea.org

GUAM/SAIPAN - For those wishing for tropical beaches, sunny weather and almost a U.S. feel, Guam and Saipan fit the bill. Guam is a small island only 30 miles in length and is located in Micronesia. Saipan is the capital and the largest island of 14 comprising the Com-

monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. One of the main hotel chains for both islands is the Pacific Islands Club (P.I.C.) www.pacificislandsclub.com. This chain is an all-inclusive resort/water park with food and kids clubs included. Lots of people go for Spring Break so book early! Children love these locales, because there is so much for them to do! Both the Dragon Hill and the USO have package tours to these islands.

HONG KONG – Hong Kong is an amazing city, with skyscrapers jutting out of the surrounding mountains and the bustling harbor down below. There is so much to see and do in this incredible city. Truly a shopper's paradise, since imported goods enter Hong Kong duty free. This creates keen competition between merchants. Shop carefully and compare prices and quality. Always deal with reputable dealers. Look for the Hong Kong Tourist Association membership sticker, as it normally indicates an established merchant with a good reputation.

Hong Kong has one definite advantage over many of the other cities/counties you may visit a place now known as the Fleet Arcade (formally called the China Fleet Club). This military hotel/shopping area has the added benefit for Americans in that there is an APO located in the building. You can shop to your heart's content and then simply MPS your packages back to Korea. (If you wish to insure your packages, then you must pay regular postage, but it's still a great deal.) Personal mail and packages may be sent via U.S. Navy Fleet Post Office (FPO) facilities in Hong Kong. The Fleet Post Office is located on the ground floor of the Fleet Arcade. The FPO is a full-service U.S. Post Office and handles packages, letter mailing, stamp purchase and money orders; money orders and other services are not offered every day - check before you go. A commercial packaging facility is located next to the FPO. The hours of operation are generally Monday through Friday 1000 to 1600, and 1000 to 1800 when ships are in port. The FPO is

closed on local and U.S. holidays as well as weekends. To use FPO services, identification is required (diplomatic passport, official passport with TDY orders showing temporary assignment to Hong Kong, Military ID, or federal agency ID). Payment is only accepted in US dollars or personal checks; no credit cards. Fleet Arcade is at Fenwick Pier, 1 Lung King St., Wan Chai. It is located on the Hong Kong island side of the city and can be easily reached from the Admiralty Subway Stop. It's on all the Hong Kong maps, on Arsenal Street, just one block from the subway. You will need your ID card for admission. There are many other hotels as well. Check with your travel agent for more choices. Some hotels on Kowloon Island are connected to incredible modern malls with all the latest fashion stores and hip restaurants we are used to in the states.

Although many people come to Hong Kong to shop, there are other things to do. Some interesting attractions include Bird Street (where literally thousands of birds are available for purchase) the Star Ferry for a leisurely ride across the harbor, the tram up Victoria Peak where you get a spectacular view of Hong Kong, Ocean Park (the largest oceanarium in the world), and a trip to Aberdeen fishing village.

Upon arrival at the Hong Kong airport, pick up one of the free tourist travel kits available in the baggage claim area. The kit contains an excellent map and a good little guide book.

The Hong Kong subway can get you just about anywhere you want to go buy a tourist pass. It's cheaper and you won't have to wait in the long lines to pay for a ticket each time.

If your mission is shopping, however, some favorite shops include:

❑ **Raymond Ko Jewelry Ltd.**, 80J Nathan Rd., Kowloon: 3-66-7144. Beautiful jewelry, good prices.

□ **The Red Chinese Department Stores.** There are several locations of this chain store, which carries a wide variety of Chinese products at good to excellent prices. They carry rosewood, rugs, screens and many other things and they mail to the U. S.

□ **Royal Rug** 16B Camavon Rd., Kowloon: 3-66-4320. This is where the Chosun buys all its Oriental rugs. They will pack your rugs for you. You can mail the smaller sizes from Hong Kong, but nothing larger than a 6'x9'carpet.

□ **Stanley Market** - Hong Kong's Itaewon, this wonderful market is high up on a mountain with breathtaking views. So many things to see, and nearby is a row of cafes that on weekends close the road to cars and becomes outdoor cafes, so quaint and lovely; take Bus 6 or Bus 260 from outside Connaught Center. You can take a taxi but it is expensive, around \$40 one way.

□ **Toys** - Panda King, Tsim Sha Tsui Center. They are located out in the mall area and carry toys and electronic games. Barter with them. There is also a Toys 'R Us.

□ **Jade Market** – If you love jade this is a must do. So many vendors under tarps selling their wares. Beautiful jade bracelets and jade jewelry of all shapes and sizes, pearls, and a few gift items.

□ **Ladies Market and Temple Street** (for Men)- Both are night markets and fun to browse. Know what you want to spend and have your calculator ready.

□ **Harbor Tour** – You will not believe how busy this harbor is! The tour is a great way to see it up close. Ask your travel agent or hotel concierge.

□ **Disneyland** – Yes, that's right, Disney has recently opened its newest Disneyland right here in Hong Kong. So why not check it out!

Even the most diehard shopper eventually gets tired or hungry and this is where Hong Kong really offers a world of choice. Dim Sum (only served for breakfast and lunch and are little works of art) and Peking

Duck are readily found and are must dos. The beautiful atrium lobby of the Royal Garden Hotel is another great place to relax or have a sandwich in their continental coffee shop. The Jumbo Restaurant is also recommended, although it can be touristy, it is a wonderful place to get a taste of Hong Kong.

Remember to save enough money to pay the airport tax on the way out!

JAPAN- Going to Japan from Korea is relatively inexpensive and easy IF you plan your trip carefully. There are several ways of going to Japan: commercial airlines, MAC flights from Osan, and by ferry from Pusan. Try to use the U.S. military facilities in Japan (particularly the New Sanno in Tokyo) as much as possible because Japan is THE most expensive country in the world. The New Sanno Hotel has an extremely high occupancy rate, so make your reservations well in advance. If you are using commercial transportation to reach Japan, consider buying a Japan Rail Pass while you are still in Seoul, they aren't available inside Japan. These passes (very similar to a Euro rail pass) allow unlimited travel on trains throughout the country and are a real bargain. You can purchase them from Global Travel near City Hall or other agencies in Seoul.

There is so much to see and do in Japan that you will want maximum flexibility in getting around. Also buy a tourist subway pass (you can get them at the New Sanno) for easy movement in Tokyo.

Tokyo – is one of the largest cities in the world. Its population is over 12 million and growing. Tokyo is the center for political, economic, and cultural activities in Japan. Some of the **major attractions in Tokyo** include:

□ **The New Sanno**, U.S. military facility. Call DSN: 229-8111 or 81-03-3440-7871 for reservations.

- **The Imperial Palace**, surrounded by a series of picturesque moats.
 - **The Marunouchi section**, the hub of Tokyo's commercial activities.
 - **The Diet building**, the seat of Japanese government
 - **Ginza and Kihombashi**, the busiest and most fashionable areas with many top-ranking stores, restaurants and theaters.
 - **The Meiji Shrine** with the **Memorial Picture Gallery** and various sports facilities.
 - **Tokyo Tower**, a steel tower which is one of the world's highest and offers an excellent view of Tokyo.
 - **Ueno Park**, filled with beautiful scenery, museums and a zoo.
- Tokyo National Museum, a MUST see whose walls encase some of the oldest relics in the world.

Out-of-Tokyo Excursions

- **Kamakura** - The seat of a feudal government from 1192-1333 is a lovely seaside resort southwest of Tokyo and easily reached by frequent electric rail service. This ancient capital city is noted for its Daibutsu or Great Buddha, 42.2 feet tall.
- **Hakone** - Famous for its mountain scenery, hot springs and many historic spots which include Lake Ashi (Lake Hakone), noted for its splendid reflections of Mt. Fuji; Hakone Shrine, said to have been founded in 757 A.D.; Owakudani and Kowakidani Valleys, where sulphurous fumes rise from crevices on the mountain side, and Mt. Koma, which commands a lovely view of surrounding scenery.
- **Hakone Open-Air Museum** - Since its beginning in 1969, this museum has enriched audiences. Situated on a grass carpet, the museum prides itself on its priceless collections of masterpieces which are of both domestic and foreign origins.

Disneyland and Disneysea - On the shores of Tokyo Bay, 7 miles from the center of Tokyo, the \$660 million entertainment complex of Disneyland dominates the landscape. Tokyo's Disneyland is the larg-

est of the Disney complexes with 110 acres. Disneysea is unique to Japan and is based on the 7 seas.

Kyoto - This ancient city, which was deliberately spared damage during World War II because of its cultural significance, is like a huge museum. There are too many attractions to detail here, but some of the most important are:

- Nijo Castle - Built in 1603 by Ieyasu, the first Shogun, as his Kyoto residence. Surrounded by double moats, the castle boasts numerous beautiful structures and gardens. Ninomaru Palace represents typical early 17th century Japanese architecture. An interesting feature of the palace is a wooden corridor so called the “nightingale floor.” Designed to warn off possible intruders, it squeaks whenever anyone walks on it.
- Kiyomizu Temple - This 355-year-old wooden temple is set in a traditional landscape and is constructed halfway up the side of a beautiful hill.
- Ginkakuji - The silver pavilion temple, built by Yoshimasa Ashikaga in 1482 as retirement home. It has beautiful gardens and smaller temples.
- Kinkakuji - The Temple of the Golden Pavilion one of the most famous sites in Kyoto. Possibly one of the most photogenic spots in Japan.

Allow several days for Kyoto if you enjoy history!

Nara - The national capital of Japan during the 8th Century, Nara, is noted as the birthplace of Japanese art and literature. It is easily accessible by train from Kyoto and it is possible to stay in one hotel (possibly in Osaka, which is in the middle) and see both areas if you have a rail pass.

Like Kyoto, Nara was spared as much destruction as possible in World

War II because of its cultural heritage. Some of the most important attractions are:

- Akishino - Temple founded in 780 A.D. by Emperors Konin Kammu.
- Hokkiji - Among other attractions, there is a three story pagoda dating from 685 and is a fine example of 7th century Japanese architecture.

Horyuji - The oldest and largest existing temple in Japan, founded in 607 AD. It is considered to be the cradle of Japanese art and culture. This is A MUST SEE if you go to Nara.

Shopping in Japan can be a VERY expensive experience if you shop on the Japanese economy. Many Americans have found they get better value by shopping in the arcade at the New Sanno or at the bases located throughout Japan. The Japanese Embassy can be reached at 02-733-5626.

MACAU - This tiny country on the tip of China is often a destination for tourists who have some extra time while they are in Hong Kong. Macau is easily accessible from Hong Kong by ferry or hydrofoil (which is definitely the best way to go). The Portuguese heritage of Macau makes it have its own special flavor and is wonderful. Go to Macau, if for nothing else, to eat and drink the good, inexpensive wines. Gambling is also a big attraction here and huge casinos line the shore. Some of these casinos boast fabulous restaurants which aren't expensive when compared to Seoul prices. Excellent, inexpensive places to eat are also easily found. For additional information, write to the Macau Tourist Information Bureau; Travessa do Paiva, Macau. If you are in Hong Kong, call the Macau tourist bureau at 5-408180.

MALAYSIA - Malaysian Airlines, working in conjunction with the country's massive "Visit Malaysia" campaign, have made this country an inexpensive and marvelous place to visit.

The Malaysians are a truly friendly people, anxious to please and

eager to visit with foreigners. Kuala Lumpur, the capital, contains many interesting attractions, including a fabulous museum.

There are also beautiful, clean beaches throughout the country and there are now special package tours for golfers interested in playing on the lush Malaysian courses.

Eating and shopping is inexpensive with the best buy possibly being the beautiful Selangor pewter, produced just outside Kuala Lumpur. For additional information, contact Malaysian Airlines or check with the USO.

NEPAL/TIBET - These ancient countries in south-central Asia are still considered to be “exotic” destinations and are visited by few of the personnel stationed in Korea. Those who have gone come back with varying reports some cite the primitive living and traveling conditions while others talk about the fascinating cultures. Neither country has an embassy in Seoul, so you will have to do your own research at the Yongsan library or find a good travel agent. Make sure ANY plans/itineraries are CONFIRMED in WRITING before departure unless you are an Indiana Jones type of adventurer.

OKINAWA - One of the four Ryukyu islands, Okinawa is an easy destination for anyone wanting to use Space-A from Osan to Kadena. Call the Osan MAC terminal for information. The climate of Okinawa is subtropical. Shopping for local crafts and china is excellent. Be aware of the fact that Japanese taxis are expensive. Use base transportation whenever possible to get close to your destination and then hike until you have too many packages to carry around.

The most logical, and cheapest, place to stay is Kadena Airbase, which has 24-hour billeting. Call Autovon 630-1110 to reach the operator. There is also occasionally Navy BOQ space available. You can check with the Navy Billeting office in Building 4198 before 4p.m.

SINGAPORE - This small country at the end of the Malay Peninsula is rapidly developing a reputation as the shopping destination in Asia. The city is experiencing a boom as a result. In addition to extensive duty-free shopping there are also some interesting things to see and do.

These include:

□ **The Singapore Zoo** - This is possibly one of the finest zoos in the world. Developed on an “open” concept, the animals live in as natural environment as possible and artificial (metal) cages are rare. Instead the zoo has built a series of “natural” barriers so you see the animals much as you would if they were in the wild.

They also offer some other unique attractions “High Tea” with the orangutans (protect your cookies and cakes because these animals are professional at sneaking over your shoulder and stealing them), a stroll with a group of “Roadrunners” a photo session with boa constrictors. If you are traveling with children or are an animal lover, the zoo is THE attraction in Singapore.

□ **Raffles Place** - A lavish old hotel, recently restored, reflects the British heritage of Singapore.

□ **Empress Place** - A marvelous museum and shopping complex in the old city. Definitely worth a visit.

□ **The Merlion** - The symbol of Singapore, possibly best viewed on a harbor cruise.

□ **The Botanical Gardens** - A truly beautiful place filled with thousands of rare tropical plants. The separate orchid garden is spectacular.

For additional information, check with the USO or your travel agent.

TAIPEI, TAIWAN (Republic of China) - One of the closest destinations from Korea, many people have chosen to tour Taiwan. Taipei is Taiwan’s largest city and also it’s capital. Costs have increased dramatically in recent years, but you can still get a fairly good tour package

from Seoul. With recent politics concerning Taiwan's desire to become independent of China and China's reluctance to let go...you really need to check before booking a trip. If you are able to go, some of the things to see include:

□ **National Palace Museum** - A priceless collection of art treasures brought from China by General Chiang Kai-Shek. Each display contains over 5,000 pieces and the displays are rotated every few months.

□ **Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial** - Opened in the late 1970s, it is a most impressive memorial to the late Chiang Kai-Shek.

□ **Taipei City** - Special attractions are the Lunshan Temple, an ornate structure of magnificent stone, sculpture and intricate woodcarving; the Confucian Temple; residential Palace, Taiwan Provincial Museum; and the Handicraft Center as well as the night markets.

□ **Taiwan 101** –(in Taipei) This marvel is the world's tallest building and just opened in March 2005. It is 101 floors and 508 meters high. The high speed elevator takes riders to the 89th floor in world record time of 39 seconds.

□ **Wulai** - An hour's drive from Taipei through typical paddy country will bring you to Wulai, a mountain village famous for the "commercialized" aboriginal village and waterfall.

□ **Taroka Gorge** - Sometimes referred to as the "Grand Canyon" of Taiwan, this is a full day's excursion by plane to Hualien and then a beautiful drive up the fantastically nature-carved gorge.

□ **Shopping** - Although new department stores are popping up all the time, Taipei's best shopping areas are still the small stores, bazaars, arcades and curio markets. Popular items for Taiwan are painting reproductions, pottery with its traditional-styled design, other ceramic wares: furniture, jewelry made of coral and other semi-precious stones, marble products from the quarries in Hualien, and products made of Taiwan jade. Remember that the quality of this jade does not equal that of genuine antique jade. Also, consider dusty temple carvings, hand puppets, old coins, expensive porcelains, cloisonne and rose-

wood furniture. For additional information check with the USO.

THAILAND - This tropical country has long been a favorite for Americans. If you are interested in Thailand as a vacation destination. This country is filled with Wats (temples) and has a strong Buddhist faith. You can see the monks in their beautiful saffron robes near the wats. This country has a long and colorful history that is so interesting to learn about. Elephants are very important and revered by the Thai people. There are many opportunities to take an elephant ride, enjoy one of the floating markets, or just explore the canals. So many things to do. Be sure to pick up information ahead of time so you can plot out your trip and not waste a moment. Some of the most popular destinations in Thailand have been Bangkok (a city of beautiful temples and palaces), Chiang Mai (the gorgeous cultural capital of the northern regions), Hua Ffin (the oldest beach resort), and Phuket (hit by the Tsunami in December 2004, but is recovering and wants tourists to visit). There are some good package tours available, check with your travel agent. The USO has some great family packages from time to time. The Thai people are quite friendly and many people find the food to be some of the best in the Orient. Some of the most important attractions in Bangkok are:

□ **The Grand Palace complex in Bangkok** - interesting not only for its history but also its architecture. Beautiful gleaming structures and one houses the Emerald Buddha, the most revered Buddha image in Thailand. If you can only visit one place make it this one! STRICT dress code.

□ **Wat Po (Temple of the Reclining Buddha)** – this large temple neighbors the Grand Palace and contains a gigantic gold plated Reclining Buddha with inlaid mother of pearl soles.

□ **Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn)**- This famous riverbank landmark is opposite The Grand Palace and is best known for it's porcelain

encrusted 79 meter central pagoda which sparkles in the sun...thus revealing why it is best to view this temple at dawn.

□ **National Assembly Hall** - a lavish structure of white marble with gold leaf ornately used in the interior.

□ **National Museum** - one of the largest in the Orient, it has 26 different buildings which trace Thai history from 5600 BC to the present. Extensive walking is involved, but it is worth it.

□ **Thieves Market** - a unique place to buy almost any type of exotic plant. Check current customs regulations very carefully before buying because most things you can't import, but well worth the visit anyway if you are a photography buff.

□ **Suan Lum Night Bazaar** – Wonderful place to shop. So much to choose from including, silk, art, wooden items, and lanterns. There are several cafes and a beer garden. Best to go around 6pm so you can try to see everything.

□ **MBK Shopping Center** – This huge shopping center is very crowded but is full of a little bit of everything. It is a great place to go if it's hot out or rainy because it is totally indoors. Each floor of this multi level center has different items, like accessory floor, electronic floor, etc...

□ **Floating Market** – This has become quite touristy but if you want to see an interesting way to shop this is it. Check with your travel agent before leaving. They might have a package tour for this. You can also hire a klong (long nose boat) to take you on a canal tour if you want to save a little money and still see how many Thai still live on the water. (See your hotel concierge to arrange the boat).

□ **Jim Thompson Museum and Silk Shop** – Jim Thompson is a legend in Thailand. His home is now a museum in Bangkok that shows a collection of traditional Thai style houses and his personal collection of Asian objects d'art. Mr. Thompson helped restore the Thai silk industry after World War II. He has an interesting tale about his disappearance...check it out. There are many of his shops around...even in

the Phuket airport.

The best buys in Thailand historically have been silk, rubies and star sapphires. For more information log on to www.tourismthailand.org.

Another great website is www.nancychandler.net which contains “Nancy Chandler’s Map of Bangkok” that is most helpful.

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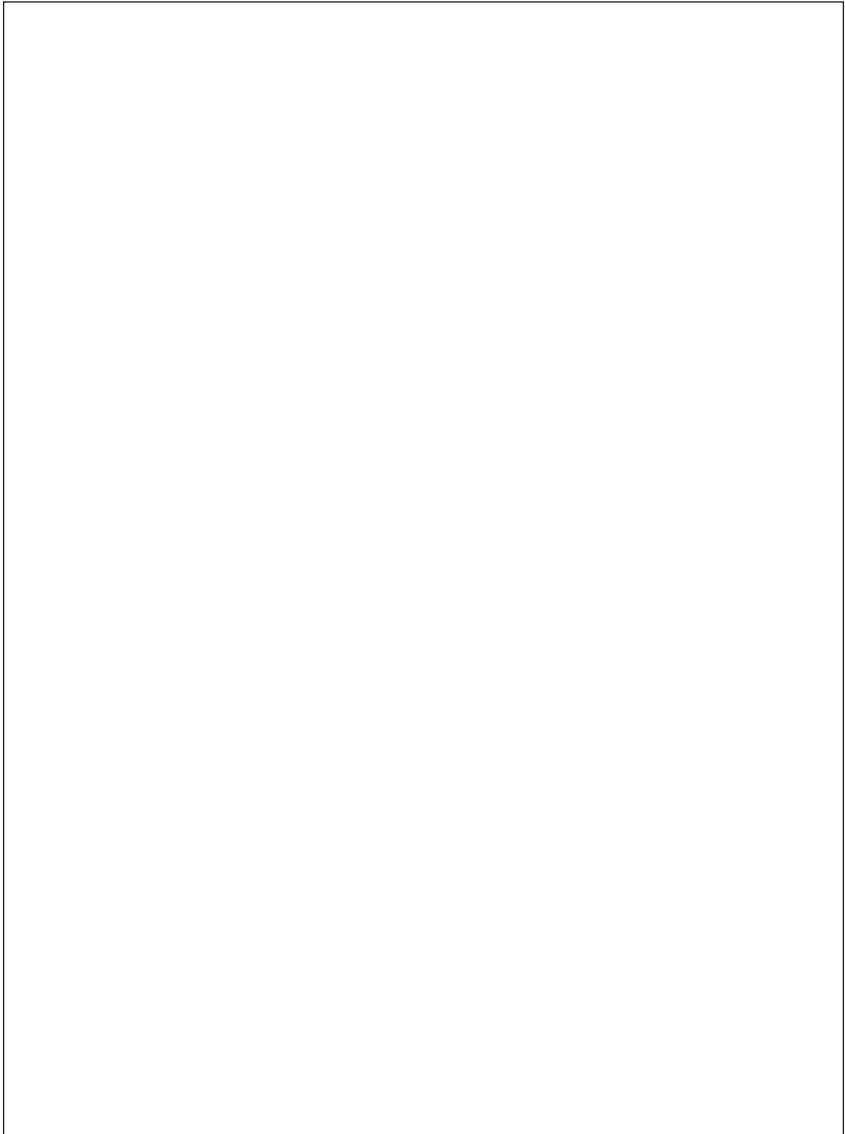
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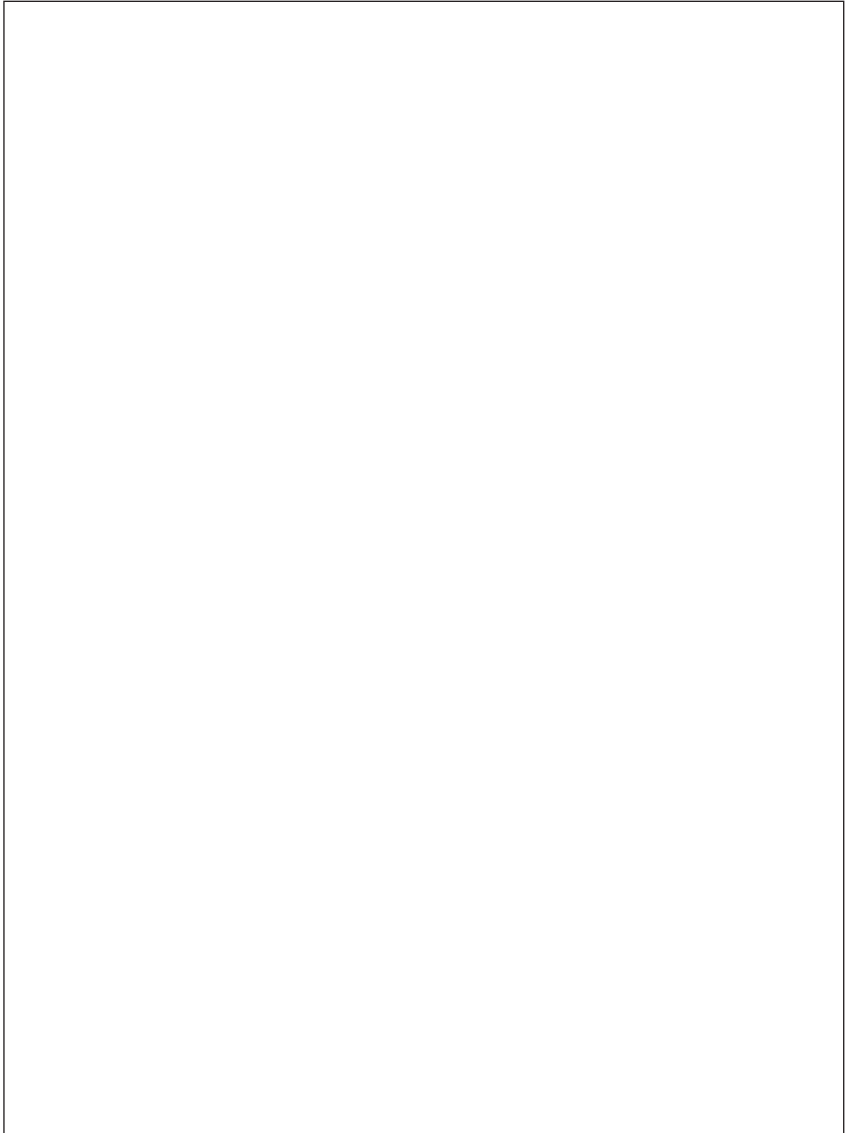
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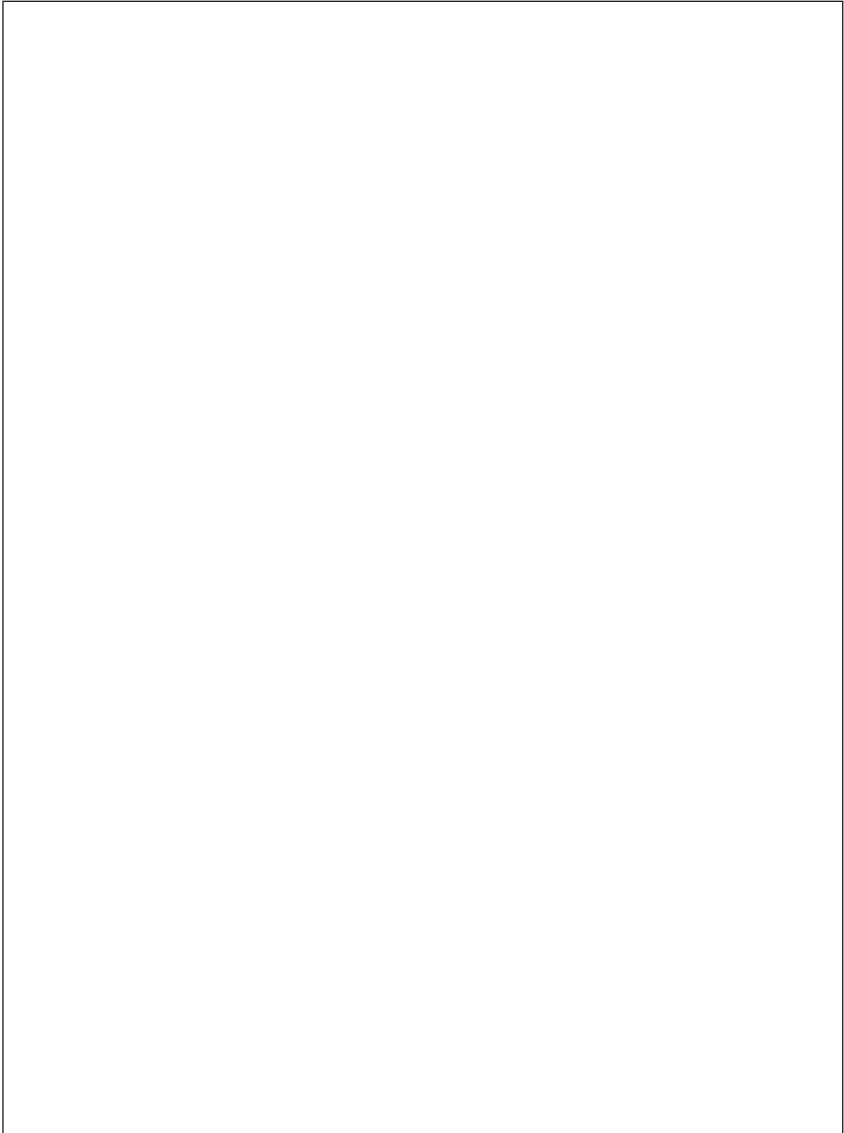
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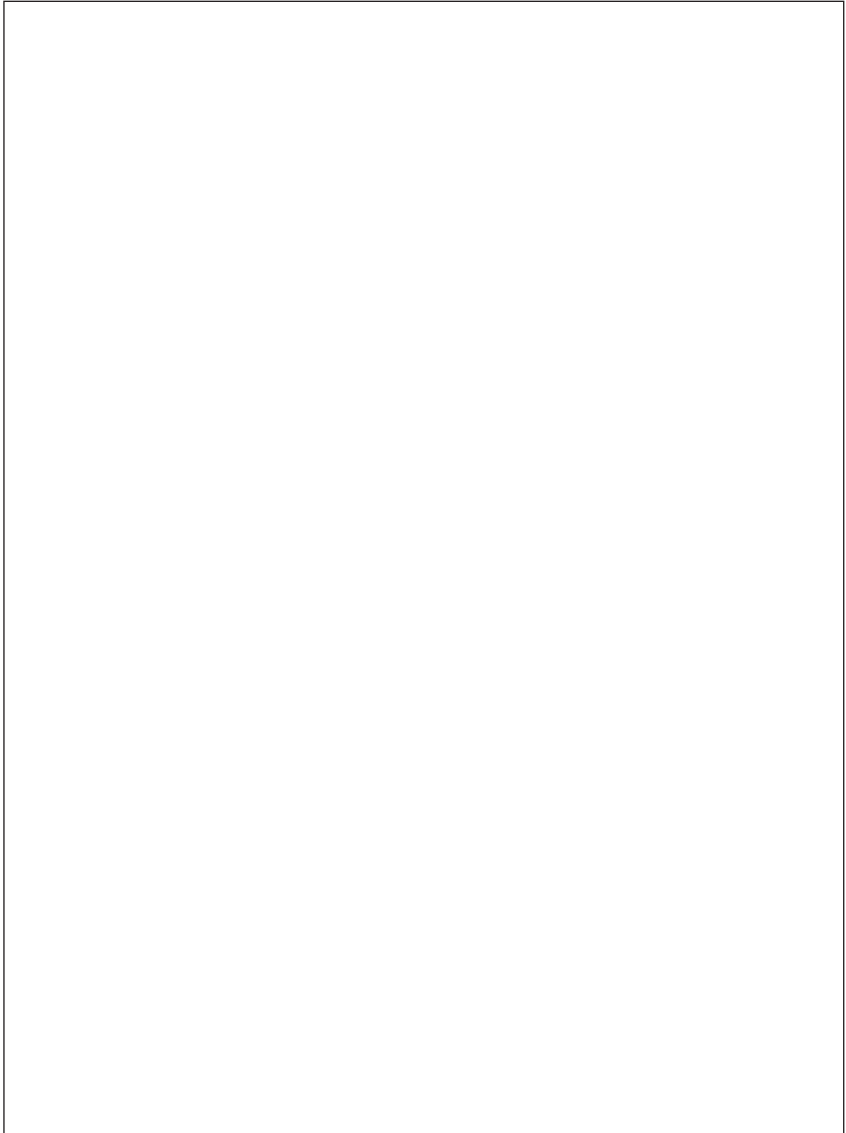
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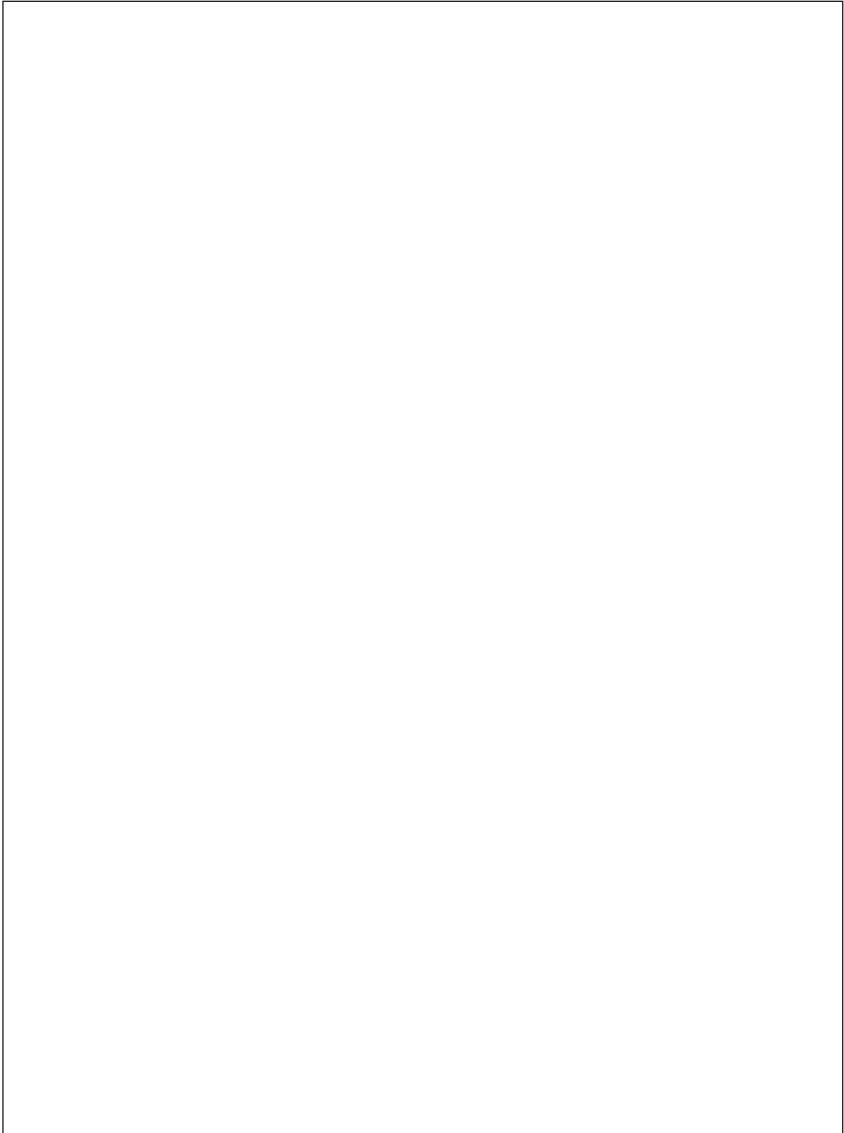
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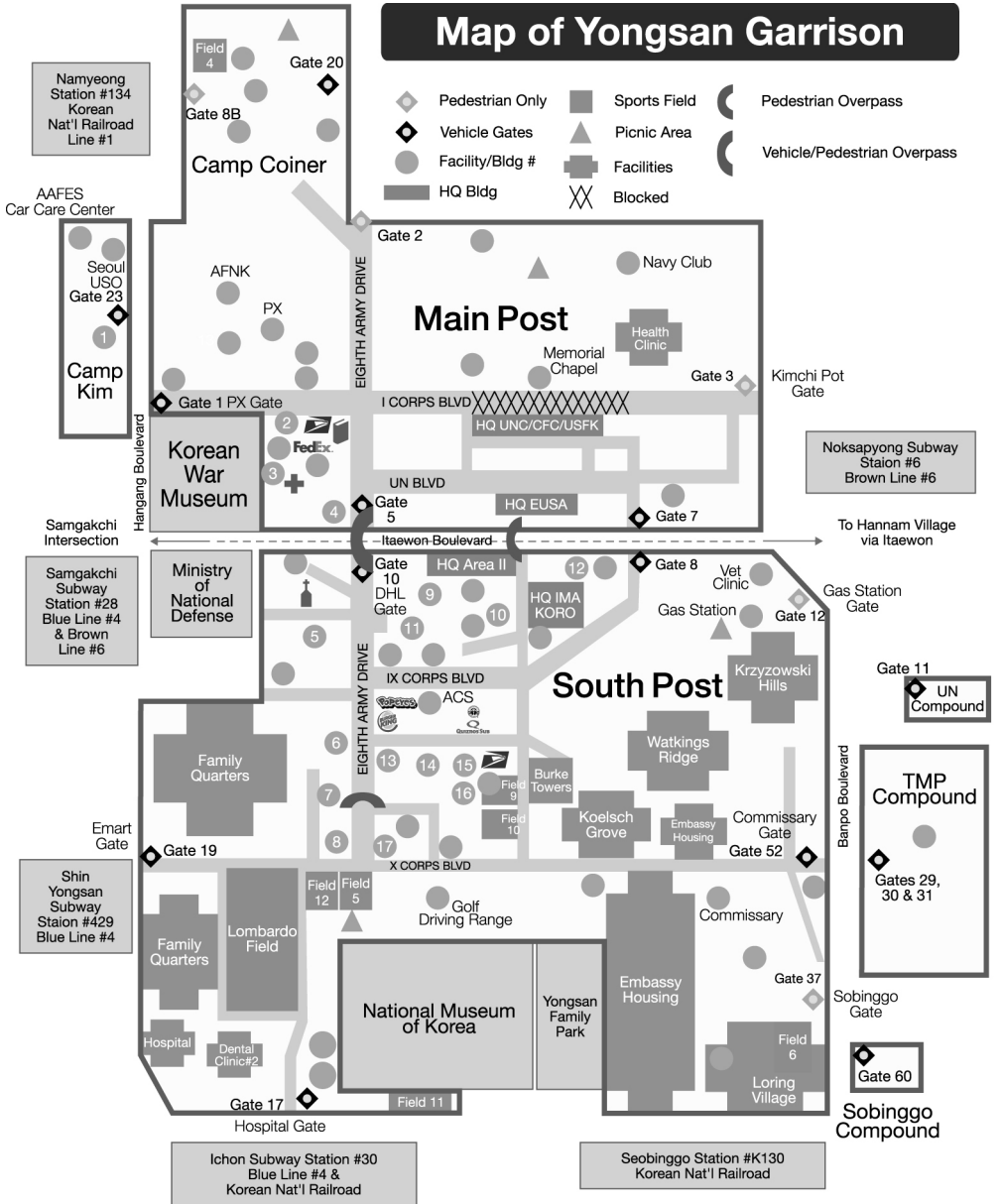
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Map of Yongsan Garrison



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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Post Pass/Vehicle Registration | 7 Dental Clinic #3 (Children Only) | 13 School Age & Youth Services |
| 2 Education Center | 8 Seoul American Elementary School | 14 Multi-Purpose Training Facility |
| 3 Bus Terminal | 9 In/Out Processing Center | 15 Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop |
| 4 Main Post Club | 10 Army Career & Alumni Program | 16 Chosun Gift Shop |
| 5 Seoul American High School | 11 Dragon Hill Lodge | 17 Fire Station |
| 6 Seoul American Middle School | 12 Legal Assistance | |